



Covid-19 Vaccine Booster and Omicron Variant Info Session & Town Hall
January 26th, 2022, 12:00 PM EST
Virtual via Zoom

Speakers and Panelists:

Dr. Larry Madoff (MDPH) Dr. Josef Kurtz (EC), Dr. Vasudev C. Mandyam (EC), Dr. Sheila Seed (MCPHS), Madison Rivard (MassArt), Kaylen Addison (SU), Brian Burns (WIT), Alexandra Koch (COF), Mike Malmberg (COF)

COF COVID Coordinators:

Please direct additional questions to your institutions COVID coordinating team:

- MCPHS** covid19team@mcphs.edu
- MassArt** covid@massart.edu
- Emmanuel** covidupdates@emmanuel.edu
- Simmons** preparedness@simmons.edu
- Wentworth** re-entry@wit.edu

Questions:

Please note that questions are posted verbatim.

Question	Answer	Resources
<p>I'm very healthy. I take care of myself. I have worked "in person" through the whole pandemic thus far with no problems. I have a very healthy immune system and have taken two Moderna shots. Omicron is less severe, the booster will not prevent me from getting or spreading it. Other than the very, very slim chance of getting sick, is there any reason to put more of a "test drug" into my body at this point? Question 1a. Is it not better, (more ethical, more effective, helpful, affordable and kind) to look more thoroughly into early interventions which already exist and have been time tested, and promote those in the unlikely event that strong,</p>	<p>The vaccine and the booster provide additional layers to protect you from Covid and to protect your loved ones from potentially getting Covid from you. With over 9 billion doses administered globally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Federal Drug Administration (FDA) have continued to update their guidance based on additional data regarding efficacy and safety. Pfizer has received full FDA approval, with other Covid vaccines under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) that included sound safety data. Our COF institutions are recommending boosters as another layer of protection for both the individual and the community at large. As children under five are not eligible for the vaccine, we must consider protecting our youngest and most vulnerable. By receiving a booster, we can protect those who are unable to get vaccinated.</p>	<p>Booster Dose Study from CDC</p>

<p>healthy people become sick? Again, rather than promote a "test drug" to otherwise healthy people?</p>		
<p>Based on lessons learned from other pandemics- what are expectations around endemic planning for the COVID-19 virus? I.E.- future of boosters (annual/ bi-annual recommended cadence?), recommended mask-use during flu seasons or on planes?, anticipated timeline for a reduction in virulence or risks associated with the virus, and any other public health/ medical considerations for how we live with the virus moving forward?</p>	<p>The future of the pandemic is still rather unclear, as comparisons to similar pandemics are mainly based on different types of viruses. There is reason to believe a similar coronavirus disease may have made its way through the world in the past, but we cannot compare response operations then to our current interconnected world.</p> <p>We can presume that COVID will become endemic and persist in the population. The virus will continue to mutate and create variants, as influenza has done for hundreds of years. It may evolve into something mirroring seasonal influenza, but it is too early to tell.</p> <p>Thankfully therapeutic development will continue and thus, treatment options will increase and be more readily available. We may also develop vaccines that offer immunity to a wider range of coronaviruses.</p>	<p>MDPH Therapeutic Treatments Pandemic Ending Depends on Human Behavior What We Can Learn from How the 1918 Pandemic Ended</p>
<p>I just recovered from COVID over winter break. When can I get the booster?</p>	<p>When vaccines were first introduced in 2021, there was high demand and short supply. Although our first recommendations were to delay the initial vaccine regimen if you had overcome a Covid infection, those recommendations have now changed as vaccines are more widely available.</p> <p>All our COF institutions require students to receive the booster dose and encourage you to receive the booster as soon as you are eligible. Your eligibility for a booster dose may be different depending on your current health status, such as receiving monoclonal antibodies or receiving Covid specific pharmaceuticals. Speak to your personal physician regarding your eligibility for a booster dose. If you have any specific questions, please reach out to your institution's Covid coordinator.</p>	<p>CDC Vaccine Booster Information MDPH Booster FAQ</p>

<p>Will we be updating our masking policy as cases go down?</p>	<p>Masking policies across the COF have offered protection from infection and spread. Most community members have been very compliant with our current protocols. It is unclear now when we will drop masks as they are a critical tool to protect against Covid. Masking is part of a larger toolbox to prevent Covid infections on campus, including testing. As we consider updating policies, all policies will need to be reviewed in coordination with other components.</p>	<p>Guidance for Wearing Masks</p>
<p>Because our institutions are in Boston, do we need to abide by the vaccine mandate for some of our spaces if they're public like a museum? I have a vaccine exemption.</p>	<p>Many of our institutions have requirements for being on campus and protocols that are already in place. If you are part of the exemption group, please follow up with your specific Covid coordinating group to make sure you are following proper protocol.</p>	<p>Boston B Together Policy</p>
<p>When will the definition of fully vaccinated be changed to include boosters?</p>	<p>We do not know if or when the definition of fully vaccinated will include a booster dose. Many vaccines require booster doses, including the HPV vaccine that is recommended for those through the age of 26. We will have to await additional insight from the FDA, CDC, and MDPH as more information comes out.</p>	<p>Recommended Vaccines by the CDC</p>
<p>What is the future for academic affairs for the spring and potential future semesters?</p>	<p>Our continued safety protocols allow consistent academic delivery. And with continuing to keep cases low on campus we will be able to deliver the large celebrations that are truly missed when moved virtually – such as graduation. By keeping restrictions for now, we can provide the important celebrations later.</p>	<p>MCPHS Simmons MassArt Emmanuel Wentworth</p>
<p>From your perspective where are we with the data on gathering for music and theater rehearsals and performances? Early on, singers were especially unfairly labeled as super spreaders. Is there any truth/data to this? Or are we just as safe as any other activity or class or orchestra theater?</p>	<p>Our earlier understanding of infectiousness has evolved, and we now have more data to review and make decisions with. As the virus is spread through the air and through respiratory droplets, activities such as singing do pose a greater risk for Covid spread. The arts are vital to our community, and we want to continue supporting their growth, but we do need to do so safely.</p>	<p>Droplets Generated by Singing Study</p>