



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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MARGRET R. COOKE
Commissioner

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February 9, 2023

Dear Nursing Home and Resident Home Families,

As the Commonwealth continues to respond to COVID-19 and works to ensure you can always meaningfully engage with loved ones who reside in a nursing home or rest home, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reaching out to you for your support in encouraging your loved one to stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.

Staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, is the most effective way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. While vaccine protection decreases over time, boosters restimulate the immune system and increase vaccine efficacy again. Booster doses provide broad protection against COVID-19 and are an important defense, even if you've already had COVID.

People who reside in nursing homes and rest homes are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and may have health conditions that place them at higher risk of becoming sick or seriously ill if not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.

We are asking for your help to ensure that your loved one has received all of the COVID-19 vaccines that they are eligible for, including the updated booster. We are asking you to:

- Ask your loved one's nurse if they have received all of the COVID-19 vaccines that they are eligible to receive.
- Talk to your loved one about the importance of getting an updated booster.
- Get your own booster, if you have not done so already, and tell your loved one about it.

COVID-19 remains present in our wider community and vaccines are our most effective tool to prevent serious illness. To learn more about boosters, visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-booster-frequently-asked-questions>

Thank you for making the safety and well-being of your loved one a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margret R. Cooke".

Margret R. Cooke
Commissioner of Public Health