

Dear Friends,

A new year seems to be moving ahead full steam! As we look back to January, Tri-Valley was fortunate to engage in a partnership with Harrington Memorial Hospital for many of our front-line staff and volunteers to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. February has brought an expansion of people eligible to receive vaccinations to those who are 75 and older. We are excited to offer information below regarding our plan to assist seniors with scheduling their vaccinations.



Occasionally we need to think about something besides the pandemic! February began with a mighty nor'easter and brought snow to many of us—creating new challenges and distracting us for a moment from the virus. February is also a time to recognize the importance of [Black History Month](#) and to take steps to reduce heart disease during [American Heart Month](#). The links here will bring you to a wealth of information and resources related to these topics.

We have great optimism about what lies ahead after the vaccination roll-out plan moves through all three phases. Vaccines and continuing to stay the course...wearing masks and following protocols set by our state and federal leaders, will bring us to a better place in the months ahead.

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE FEBRUARY 5, 2021 HOW TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT:

**Individuals ages 75 and over are eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts.**

Appointments, while significantly limited at this time, can be scheduled online by visiting [www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap](http://www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccineMap). Residents enter their zip code or select a location from the map on the website and follow prompts to schedule an appointment online.

Individuals 75 and older who are unable to use or have difficulty accessing the internet to schedule an appointment online may use the Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line:

Call 2-1-1 (877-211-6277)

follow prompts for assistance booking an appointment

**Hours of Operation:  
Monday through Friday  
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM**

The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and will have translators available to support residents in approximately 100 additional languages. Individuals ages 75 and older will be able to speak to a representative live on the phone to assist them with an appointment through the state's online system. **These representatives have the same access to appointments as on the public website; it will not give individuals access to additional appointments.** If no appointments are available, callers will have the option to be placed on a call back list for the mass vaccination sites. The caller will receive a call back when an appointment becomes available for them at a mass vaccination site, and the list will be called on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line is currently **only for individuals ages 75 and older who cannot use or have difficulty accessing the internet** and therefore are unable to schedule an appointment through the online platforms. The Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line is only able to support individuals with scheduling an appointment and representatives are not able to answer general questions about COVID-19 or provide individual health care advice.

Due to extremely high demand for appointments and limited vaccine supply, appointments are getting booked quickly. New appointments will continually be added to the website regularly and the mass vaccination sites have the most availability for appointments. As of now, Mass vaccination sites post appointments weekly, and some smaller sites post more regularly. If you are unable to secure an appointment, please continue to check the website.

**Appointments can be booked at different provider types (i.e., mass vaccination sites, pharmacies, local vaccination sites) and are located in several communities statewide.**

#### **Steps to book an appointment:**

1. Visit [www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineMap](http://www.mass.gov/CovidVaccineMap) and enter zip code or click on the map
2. Select a location and schedule an appointment online
3. Have your important information with you, such as your insurance card
4. Fill out the self-attestation form, which will need to be presented at your appointment

Information for community organizations and individuals ages 75 and older can be found at [mass.gov/covidvaccine75](http://mass.gov/covidvaccine75)

## **Consumer Fraud Alert: COVID-19**

As the number of people and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic grows, so do the scams associated with it. Scammers use public health emergencies as



opportunities for new fraud schemes, and because older adults are at greater risk for serious illness from COVID-19, they may target older populations.

It's important to remember that although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health officials may contact you if they believe you may have been exposed to the virus, they will not need to ask you for insurance or financial information.

Scammers rapidly alter their tactics and adapt their schemes to the changing landscape, and we anticipate that they will leverage the COVID-19 vaccine to prey on unsuspecting beneficiaries. Be vigilant and protect yourself from potential fraud concerning COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. *Read full alert.*

## Have you heard of Options Counseling?

This is a free service that helps older people, adults of any age with a disability, their family members or caregivers.

If you don't know where to turn, an Options Counselor can empower you to make informed decisions about long term supports and services programs. Options Counselors provide unbiased information and can help you access public and private long term supports and services.

To speak to an Options Counselor at Tri-Valley, call 508-949-6640 or 1-800-286-6640 from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.



### **Jim Fitzgibbons, SHC Care Manager Proud Recipient of the Marilyn L. Travinski Award for Excellence**

Nominations for this prestigious award came from his peers with review and final decision by the Board of Directors. Jim met and surpassed all of the criteria for the award. He is highly respected by all and his dedication to Tri-Valley and its consumers for over 27 years has been outstanding!

***Congratulations, Jim!***

**DARN TOUGH VERMONT** [www.darntough.com](http://www.darntough.com)

*For donating Merino Wool Socks to keep seniors warm this winter!*

*Thank  
You*

Tri-Valley, Inc., a private, non-profit agency, receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and federal financial support under the Older Americans Act furnished by the Central Mass Agency on Aging and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Funds are also received from public and private sources.

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Contact Us



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Today

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