

# COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees  
of Southcoast Health

March 10, 2021

*Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.*

## **In this Bulletin, you will find the following:**

- *Additional Travel Update: Quarantining and testing for persons who have been completely vaccinated for COVID-19*
- *Important Reminder: Remaining vigilant*
- *Reflecting on the State-of-Emergency one-year mark*

**Please scroll through the entire Bulletin to find these important updates.**

And be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

*Thank you.*

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### **ADDITIONAL TRAVEL UPDATE: Quarantining and testing for persons who have been completely vaccinated for COVID-19**

The Commonwealth updated their website today, March 10, changing slightly the requirements for quarantine and testing that we sent yesterday, March 9.

Regarding the exception for quarantining and testing for those fully vaccinated, the 90-day expiration for individuals fully vaccinated was eliminated. That means once 14 days has passed after full vaccination, quarantining and testing

are not required, as long as the individual does not exhibit symptoms. The language now states:

*Persons Who Have Been Completely Vaccinated for COVID-19:* Individuals who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines OR who have received a single dose of the Janssen vaccine, more than 14 days ago and who do not have symptoms, do not need to obtain a negative test prior to traveling to, or quarantine upon arrival to, Massachusetts.

COVID-19 vaccinated individuals arriving in Massachusetts must have documentation of their vaccination(s), including the date(s) of administration, available if asked. This exception does not include COVID-19-recovered individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, who must follow all testing and quarantine guidance outlined in the travel rules.

The Commonwealth's travel requirements are located on the MDPH website at [COVID-19 Travel Order](#).

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### **IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remain vigilant**

All staff still need to remain vigilant, even if vaccinated and despite the decreasing numbers of positive patients in our hospitals. Many people in our region have yet to be vaccinated and the COVID-19 virus, including variants, are still circulating. **We all need to continue with employee attestations, front door screenings, limited visitors, face masking, PPE and handwashing.**

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### **Reflecting on the State-of-Emergency one-year mark**

Today, March 10, 2021, marks one year since a State of Emergency was declared in Massachusetts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us at Southcoast Health have learned and experienced a great deal since March 2020.

As a health system, we learned about being flexible and agile, as the information being received changed often. We learned a great deal about

the COVID-19 virus itself, including how to keep each other safe; how to stand up new testing platforms and front door health screenings for all, how to deliver high quality care via Telehealth and, more recently, how to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to almost 20,000 people in the South Coast Region.

We also learned about character and courage in the face of immense challenge. We learned about true heartbreak, as families and friends were not allowed to visit their loved ones while in the hospital. We learned about the incredible strength and resilience of our caregivers, who worked long and arduous hours caring for very ill patients. We learned about teamwork and the need to pair together resources from across our health system, with our community partners and state officials. We learned about the incredible generosity and kindness of patients, families, neighbors, and friends. We learned about ambiguity, as it was never clear when the first surge would subside nor if/when the second surge would arrive.

It has been a demanding and difficult year, to say the least. And through it all, we have become stronger, better prepared for whatever may come our way, and more appreciative for the tremendous support we have received throughout. For all of your commitment, dedication, hard work, and courage, Southcoast Health thanks you, our patients thank you, and our community thanks you.

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### **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

- As of March 10, we currently have 49 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – 6 of those patients are in Intensive Care Units.
- In addition, we currently have 15 patients under investigation (PUI) currently hospitalized across our system – with no PUI in ICU.

COVID-19 daily dashboards, generated by the Southcoast Analytics Team, are available [here](#).

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For testing information, guidance on PPE, hotlines and much more, please visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Hub](#) for employees and staff.

Questions? Please email them to [faq@southcoast.org](mailto:faq@southcoast.org).

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*Thank you, and be well.*