

# COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees  
of Southcoast Health

*March 9, 2022*

*Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.*


In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **Southcoast employee-only walk-in booster clinics**
- **UPDATE: Comprehensive PPE guidance**
- **UPDATE: In-person meetings and gatherings**
- **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**


Please scroll through the entire Bulletin for these updates, and be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

*Thank you.*

## Southcoast employee-only walk-in clinic booster clinics



**seat belt**  
... an added layer of protection to help save  
your life.



**Get boosted.**  
... add a layer of protection  
– for your colleagues,  
for your family, for yourself.

Visit a Southcoast employee-only walk-in vaccine clinic to get boosted and add another layer of protection! No appointment needed.

Upcoming employee-only walk-in vaccine clinics:

- Wednesday, March 9, 9am-12pm (Vanity Fair)
- Wednesday, March 9, 2pm-5pm (CMH Elizabeth House)
- Thursday, March 10, 10am-6:30pm (Vanity Fair)
- Saturday, March 12, 10am-2pm (Vanity Fair)
- Monday, March 14, 2pm - 5pm (TOH Stillman Library)
- Tuesday, March 15, 6am - 8am (CMH Elizabeth House)
- Wednesday, March 16, 9am-12pm (Vanity Fair)
- Wednesday, March 16, 2pm - 5pm (SLH Knowles Auditorium)

Go [here](#) for the full employee vaccine clinic schedule.

Remember to complete the consent via the link below in advance of arriving: <https://southcoastapps.southcoast.org/covidform>.

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### **UPDATE: Comprehensive PPE guidance**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health updated guidance for [Comprehensive PPE and COVID-19 for all Healthcare Providers and Organizations](#).

Given the decrease in cases observed in Massachusetts since the last update on PPE guidance released in January, there are three changes:

- Removing the requirement to wear eye protection for all patient care encounters. [Southcoast Guidance for PPE Use and Optimization](#) was updated to reflect this change.
- Allowing staff to be able to congregate without facemasks when they are in well-defined areas that are restricted from patient access (e.g., staff meeting rooms, kitchens), as long as everyone participating is fully vaccinated.
- Removing the ability to reuse respirators.

There is no change on use of N95s at Southcoast.

Please note that DPH has also extended the deadline that providers may request PPE from the State Stockpile to June 2022.

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### **UPDATE: In-person meetings and gatherings**

With COVID numbers declining very quickly and the CDC lifting many of the socializing restrictions, Southcoast Health is resuming in-person meetings to the greatest extent possible (as noted in the March 4 COVID-19 Bulletin).

While we have all become accustomed and skilled in utilizing Microsoft Teams, in-person meetings can be important for activities such as education, orientation, team-building and emotional support.

For in-person meetings please adhere to the following:

- To create social distancing, please plan on keeping every other seat/space vacant.
- Cleaning the conference/work area following a meeting/gathering is critical to maintaining safety in the workplace.
- Compliance with masking, hand hygiene and vaccination/booster requirements are critical to keeping all everyone safe.
- Screening for COVID-like symptoms, and not coming to work or attending an in-person meeting when symptomatic remains a top priority.
- Everyone is individually responsible for their own personal safety and comfort.
- If uncomfortable with in-person meeting, you should speak with a supervisor or meeting organizer for alternate means of attending a meeting.
- Meeting organizers should include a message to all participants (in the meeting invite) about personal responsibilities: masking, hand hygiene, encouraging boosters and cleaning up the meeting area.

In the coming weeks, we will increase seating in our cafeterias and add signage reminding all employees about the personal responsibilities noted above.

Employees who are immunocompromised or received a vaccination exemption must continue to mask at in-person meeting and gatherings and are urged to be cautious.

For on-site vendors:

- All vendors should be screened for flu-like symptoms.
- It is still our expectation that our regular/routine vendors (WB Mason, Nestle, etc.) are vaccinated. We need to stay the course and continue with reminders.
- Merchandise vendors (jewelry, uniforms, etc.) who occasionally set-up within our facilities, must also be vaccinated and should be encouraged to use large rooms and/or open spaces to allow for social distancing.

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

As of this morning, we have 8 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 2 positive cases in ICU. In addition, we have 3 PUI 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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*Thank you, and be well.*