Press release from Olivia Adams, founder of macovidvaccines.com
Wednesday June 30, 2021

macovidvaccines.com is closing
In February 2021 Olivia Adams created a website to make it easier to find COVID-19 vaccination appointments. That website, macovidvaccines.com, filled a need because there was no single, centralized location for Massachusetts residents to find available appointments.

Today, Adams is announcing that the site is closing because the vaccine supply has increased so dramatically that it's now easy enough to find an appointment through the Commonwealth's official website, vaxfinder.mass.gov.

Over 4 million people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated, with well over 8 million doses given [as of June 30, see *Daily COVID-19 Vaccine Report*]. "We're proud and honored to have helped so many people get vaccinations and slow the spread of this terrible disease," said Adams.

While macovidvaccines.com is still one of the easiest ways to find and schedule appointments, the need for the site is not nearly as great as it was. There are currently over 20,000 available vaccination appointments across the state, with more added every day.

As with other aspects of healthcare, there are still equity issues in vaccine distribution. Residents who do not speak English, cannot travel long distances, have unreliable internet access, or do not have flexible working hours find it increasingly difficult or near impossible to get vaccinated. Adams and her team hope that the Commonwealth and local vaccination sites continue to work to address this issue along with dedicated non-profits.

The Mass Covid Vaccination Help team has also shut down, but their website has great tips to help people find an appointment. Mass Covid Vaccination Help organized hundreds of volunteers to book COVID-19 vaccine appointments for tens of thousands of residents across the Commonwealth. The two teams worked together toward the common goal of helping people get vaccinated.

History of macovidvaccines.com
Olivia created the site while on maternity leave from her job at athenahealth. There have been over 50 volunteers on the project, working together to develop the best ways to help Massachusetts residents find appointments. They contributed their expertise in writing and testing code, designing new features, interviewing Massachusetts residents, and constantly monitoring the Commonwealth's ever-changing response to the pandemic.

The code behind macovidvaccines.com reads appointment data from websites for hundreds of individual vaccination sites across the Commonwealth. The site presented scheduling information in a way that made it easier for people to find and make appointments — instead of just showing the sites that had appointments, the website showed how many appointments were available, and on which days. Putting all of that information together on a single webpage

took a little more work, but it was easier for people to use, and helped slow the spread of COVID-19.

The goal of the website was to help people find and schedule appointments, but actual scheduling was done on the websites associated with each vaccination location. Because of that, there's no count of how many appointments people scheduled through macovidvaccines.com. Many of the volunteers used the site, and joined the project after breathing a sigh of relief when they scheduled their own appointments.

On a personal level, members of the team started as strangers, but became friends while working together to address this critical need. Some volunteers were just out of school, while others had worked in the computer industry for decades. Adams is incredibly grateful to those who helped with this effort, whether by aiding in the development of the website, donating money, or simply emailing feedback.

Use of the site, and some relevant statistics
This summarizes the work that went into macovidvaccines.com:

- 52 volunteers joined the project to help residents of Massachusetts. Over five months, people visited the site over 20 million times.
- Along with the website, over 600 tweets and 20,000 text messages helped alert people to the availability of appointments.
- Hundreds of site users wrote with praise, concerns and suggestions: "This is a great website for signing up. I like the layout and ease of navigation." "Thanks so much for making such a great site. I've come to rely on it as I book appointments for people."
- The code for macovidvaccines.com is publicly available through GitHub, and has been used by volunteers to create sibling websites in Ohio and Kentucky.
- Several volunteers also worked with the macovidvaxhelp.com team, which provided volunteers to find appointments for people