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A couple of drone pilots operate their drones from Birch Drive in Brewster on Sept. 14. MERRILY CASSIDY/CAPE COD TIMES

Drone laws

Is it legal in MA to shoot one down hovering over your property?

Margie Cullen and Anna Kleiber
USA TODAY NETWORK

Massachusetts legislators have introduced a number of bills to regulate drone activity in the state, following a growing number of drone sightings and “hazardous drone operation” in the state.

None of these bills, however, would make it legal to shoot down a drone in Massachusetts. That’s because it’s illegal under federal law.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), shooting down a drone could result in a civil penalty from the FAA and/or criminal charges from federal, state or local law enforcement.

Here’s what to know about current federal and state rules surrounding drones.



A drone hovers nearby as Taylor Ellis walks along the Anawan Cliffs shoreline in Narragansett in March 2023. ANTONIA NOORI FARZAN/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

What is a drone?

The FAA refers to drones as “small unmanned aircraft systems,” or UAS. Drones are used for a variety of reasons, including by news agencies, law enforcement or individuals. More than 822,000 drones were registered by the FAA in the U.S. as of July 2025, according to its website.

In Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation uses drones as part of its Aeronautics Drone

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AG Campbell launches run for second term in office

Sam Drysdale
State House News Service

BOSTON — Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell Tuesday, Oct. 21 launched her 2026 reelection campaign, highlighting her first-term record on consumer protection and federal litigation.

Campbell, a Democrat who in 2022 became the first Black woman elected to statewide office in Massachusetts, made her announcement in Boston’s South End, near where she grew up.

“Our work is far from done,” she told supporters. “Too many families are still struggling to live paycheck to paycheck ... This is why I’m running for re-election because Massachusetts deserves an attorney general who leads with empathy, compassion and a sense of urgency.”



Campbell

Since taking office in January 2023, Campbell has taken an expansive approach to the role of attorney general, often clashing with the federal government. Her office is part of nearly 40 lawsuits against the Trump administration, targeting actions that threaten investments in education, health care and research. Lawsuits have protected \$3.01 billion of the \$3.18 billion President Donald Trump has targeted, Campbell said Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Campbell has restructured the attorney general’s office, creating a Reproductive Justice Unit, an Elder Justice Unit and an Office of Gun Safety Enforcement. She also defended Massachusetts’ law banning assault weapons in a case that reached the U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the statute.

Her office secured guilty verdicts against defendants in a Boston area sex trafficking ring and launched an investigation into the Boston Police Department’s gang unit and gang database over allegations of racial bias.

On housing, Campbell has enforced the MBTA Communities Act, a controversial law requiring cities and towns to zone for multifamily housing near public transit. She sued the town of Milton for failing

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Who can, and should, get the COVID-19 booster this fall

Rin Velasco
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

Looking to get a COVID-19 vaccine booster for yourself or your child this fall?

It may be a bit more complicated than just making an appointment.

In August, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the new COVID-19 booster shots, but with certain restrictions. Those restrictions are for people older than 6 months old but younger than 65-years-old who do not have a higher risk of severe illness from

COVID-19.

“FDA has now issued marketing authorization for those at higher risk: Moderna (6+ months), Pfizer (5+), and Novavax (12+),” Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. posted on X. “These vaccines are available for all patients who choose them after consulting with their doctors.”

The FDA’s new restrictions said that people who are younger than 65 years old and who are not at a high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 may need to get a vaccine prescription or consultation documents from a doctor in order to

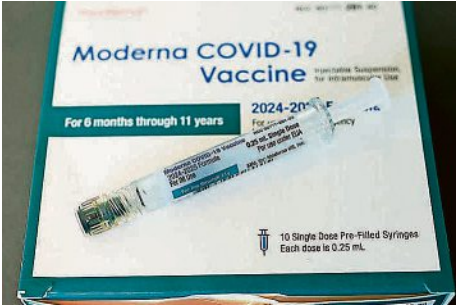
get the jab.

Here’s how you can tell if you’re eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine booster shot.

Who is eligible for COVID vaccine booster 2025

The Centers for Disease Control said people who are eligible for a COVID-19 booster shot without needing a vaccine prescription or documentation from a doctor are individuals who are 65 years

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A Moderna COVID-19 vaccine fills a syringe at Borinquen Health Care Center on May 29 in Miami. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

