UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 INITIAL FILING

VERICEL CORP (NAME OF ISSUER) COMMON STOCK (TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES) 92346J108 (CUSIP NUMBER) 12/31/2021 (DATE OF EVENT WHICH REQUIRES FILING OF THIS STATEMENT)

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO DESIGNATE THE RULE PURSUANT TO WHICH THIS SCHEDULE IS FILED:

| (X) | RULE 13D-1 (B) |
|-----|----------------|
| ()  | RULE 13D-1 (C) |
| ()  | RULE 13D-1 (D) |

\*THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL BE FILLED OUT FOR A REPORTING PERSON`S INITIAL FILING ON THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT CLASS OF SECURITIES, AND FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENT CONTAINING INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ALTER THE DISCLOSURES PROVIDED IN A PRIOR COVER PAGE.

THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL NOT BE DEEMED TO BE "FILED" FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 18 OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 ("ACT") OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO THE LIABILITIES OF THAT SECTION OF THE ACT BUT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT (HOWEVER, SEE THE NOTES).

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- 1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON: STATE STREET CORPORATION I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF THE ABOVE PERSON: 04-2456637
- 2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

- 3. SEC USE ONLY
- 4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

**0** SHARES

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

2,712,762

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

0 SHARES

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

2,809,660

9. AGGREGATED AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,809,660

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

NOT APPLICABLE

- 11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9
  6.00%
- 12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

PAGE 3 OF 5 PAGES CUSIP NO: 92346J108 13G ITEM 1. (A) NAME OF ISSUER VERICEL CORP ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES (B) 64 SIDNEY STREET CAMBRIDGE MA 02139 UNITED STATES ITEM 2. (A) NAME OF PERSON FILING STATE STREET CORPORATION (B) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IN NONE, RESIDENCE STATE STREET FINANCIAL CENTER **1 LINCOLN STREET** BOSTON, MA 02111 (FOR ALL REPORTING PERSONS) (C) CITIZENSHIP: SEE ITEM 4 (CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION) OF COVER PAGES (D) TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES COMMON STOCK CUSIP NUMBER: (E) 92346J108 ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B) OR (C), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A: SEE ITEM 12(TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON) OF THE COVER PAGE FOR EACH REPORTING PERSON AND THE TABLE BELOW, WHICH EXPLAINS THE MEANING OF THE TWO LETTER SYMBOLS APPEARING IN ITEM 12 OF THE COVER PAGES. SYMBOL CATEGORY BANK AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(A) (6) OF THE ACT. ΒK TC INSURANCE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3 (A) (19) OF THE ACT IC INVESTMENT COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940. IA AN INVESTMENT ADVISOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (E). EΡ AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR ENDOWMENT FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (F) A PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON IN HC ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B)(1)(II) (G). SA A SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(B) OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT (12 U.S.C. 1813). CP A CHURCH PLAN THAT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE DEFINITION OF AN INVESTMENT COMPANY UNDER SECTION 3(C)(14) OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940. CUSIP NO: 92346J108 PAGE 4 OF 5 PAGES 13G TTFM 4. OWNERSHTP THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN ROWS 5 THROUGH 11 OF THE COVER PAGE HERETO FOR EACH OF THE REPORTING PERSONS IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

- ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF CLASS NOT APPLICABLE
- ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON NOT APPLICABLE
- ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON SEE EXHIBIT 1 ATTACHED HERETO
- ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP NOT APPLICABLE
- ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP NOT APPLICABLE

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BY SIGNING BELOW I CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THE SECURITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE WERE ACQUIRED AND ARE HELD IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED AND ARE NOT HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OR WITH THE EFFECT OF CHANGING OR INFLUENCING THE CONTROL OF THE ISSUER OF THE SECURITIES AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED AND ARE NOT HELD IN CONNECTION WITH OR AS A PARTICIPANT IN ANY TRANSACTION HAVING THAT PURPOSE OR EFFECT.

## SIGNATURES

AFTER REASONABLE INQUIRY AND TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT.

STATE STREET CORPORATION

ELIZABETH SCHAEFER SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, DEPUTY CONTROLLER

## EXHIBIT 1

THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS THE IDENTITY AND ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION OF EACH SUBSIDIARY OF STATE STREET CORPORATION, THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY, THAT BENEFICIALLY OWNS THE ISSUER'S SECURITIES. PLEASE REFER TO ITEM 3 OF THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE 13G FOR A DESCRIPTION OF EACH OF THE TWO-LETTER SYMBOLS REPRESENTING THE ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION BELOW.

| SUBSIDIARY                                       | ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION |
|--|-----------------------|
| SSGA FUNDS MANAGEMENT, INC.                      | IA                    |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS LIMITED             | IA                    |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS, AUSTRALIA, LIMITED | IA                    |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS EUROPE LIMITED      | IA                    |
| STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS TRUST COMPANY       | IA                    |
|  |                       |

NOTE: ALL OF THE LEGAL ENTITIES ABOVE ARE DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUBSIDIARIES OF STATE STREET CORPORATION.