



State of New Mexico COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Plan Phases 1A, 1B, 1C, and 2

Updated January 22, 2021

I. BACKGROUND

New Mexico has prioritized vaccine allocation consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) phases,¹ adapting those phases where necessary to protect New Mexican residents as effectively as possible. The state's vaccination distribution plan aims to a) ensure the continuing functioning of the health care system and essential services in the community and b) protect people at increased risk for severe COVID-19-related illness.

During Phase 1 of COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the United States, supplies will be limited. The federal government is distributing COVID-19 vaccine in weekly allotments to states over the next 3-6 months. Those allotments are insufficient to vaccinate all New Mexicans. In Phase 2, every New Mexico resident who wishes to be vaccinated will have a chance to receive the vaccine.

In coordination with key stakeholders, NMDOH is creating a broad vaccine administration network to ensure sustainable and equitable vaccine access across New Mexico. This network includes private healthcare providers, pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, community service organizations, and mass vaccination events.

The creation of the current protocol has also included input from a team that is diverse by race, ethnicity, language, gender, professional training, clinical settings, life experiences and informed by health equity and racial justice principles as well as the *Framework on Equitable Distribution of COVID Vaccine*.² We recognize that vaccination success will depend on engaging local community leaders and groups as primary carriers of information and building trust to overcome lack of media access, economic isolation and bureaucratic barriers.

As recommended and defined by the CDC,³ the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities (Phase 1A). Subsequently, vaccine should be offered to those categorized in sequential phases (1B and 1C). As more vaccine becomes available, vaccination across multiple phases can occur simultaneously.⁴

¹ CDC recommendations are based on input from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This federal advisory committee is comprised of medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the United States.

² National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2020. *Framework for equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccine*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25917>.

³ [When Vaccine is Limited, Who Gets Vaccinated First? | CDC](#)

⁴ While no data currently exists addressing the safety and efficacy of Pfizer's or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women, the CDC has recommended that pregnant women may be offered the vaccine within the phase they fit in, following consultation with their medical provider. Additionally, none of the vaccines currently approved for Emergency Use Authorization have been tested on or approved for use in children younger than 16. (Pfizer can be administered to

Vaccine availability will initially be limited and therefore must be distributed in a phased approach. These phases are as follows.

***Phase 1A:** All persons serving in health care settings who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents of long-term care facilities. Also includes workers in congregate settings.*

***Phase 1B:** All individuals 75 years of age and older, individuals 16 or older with underlying medical conditions that place them at greater risk from COVID-19, frontline essential workers⁵ who cannot work remotely, and vulnerable populations.*

***Phase 1C:** Includes persons 60 years of age or older, essential workers⁶ who cannot work remotely.*

***Phase 2:** All persons 16 years of age or older.*

II. PHASED ALLOCATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES

PHASE 1A: CONSISTS OF HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL, STAFF AND RESIDENTS OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, STAFF OF OTHER CONGREGATE CARE FACILITIES, AND OTHER PERSONNEL WITH DIRECT EXPOSURE TO INFECTIOUS PEOPLE OR MATERIALS

In Phase 1A, workers who provide healthcare and other direct *in-person* services to patients, persons with disabilities, and persons living in congregate care settings who are at risk of exposure to the virus or who handle infectious materials will be vaccinated. A non-exhaustive list of individuals are eligible for vaccine in Phase 1A include the following. (For a complete list of individuals falling within Phase 1A, see Appendix A.)

- All hospital personnel
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- Medical first responders
- Congregate setting healthcare workers and those workers in congregate settings who may have close contact with infected persons
- Persons providing direct medical care and other in person services in the community
- Home-based healthcare and hospice workers

PHASE 1B: PERSONS 75 YEARS OR OLDER, 16 YEARS OR OLDER WITH AT LEAST ONE CHRONIC CONDITION, FRONTLINE ESSENTIAL WORKERS IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKPLACES, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Phase 1B will be administered to groups in the following sequence:

- Persons 75 years or older
- Persons 16 years or older with at least one of chronic medical conditions identified below
- Frontline essential workers as identified below
- Vulnerable populations

persons 16 years of age or older; Moderna can be administered to persons 18 years of age or older.) *These guidelines may change as more information on vaccine effectiveness and additional vaccines become available.*

⁵ Frontline essential workers are employed in sectors essential to the functioning of society and are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

⁶ Essential workers are employed in sectors essential to the functioning of society.

A. Persons 75 years of age or older: This group faces the highest risk of hospitalization, morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. Vaccine scheduling appointments will be made available to this group as soon as Phase 1B begins; it may take several weeks for all eligible seniors to receive a vaccine.

B. Persons 16 years of age or older with at least one of the following conditions:

Conditions with increased risk of severe illness:⁷

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions (heart failure, hypertension, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies)
- Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (BMI>=30)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 Diabetes

Conditions that might involve increased risk:

- Asthma
- Cerebrovascular disease (previous stroke, TIA)
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids or use of other immune-weakening medicines
- Neurologic conditions such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Overweight (BMI >25 but <30)
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Thalassemia
- Type 1 diabetes

C. Frontline essential workers: Workers in essential and other industries that are part of America’s critical infrastructure.⁸ Many of these workers operate in roles that require significant person-to-person interactions and place them at greater risk of COVID-19 infection. Vaccine access is critical not only to protect these workers but also to maintain the essential services they provide in New Mexico.

Because the number of people in Phase 1B is much larger than available supply, not all frontline essential workers can be vaccinated simultaneously. Frontline essential workers will be vaccinated in the following order.

- Family home caregivers, child care workers, (paid or unpaid) of persons who care for those with high-risk conditions
- Early education and K-12 educators/staff and other personnel in educational institutions needed on-site to support in-person learning
- Higher education staff
- Grocery store workers
 - Personnel at grocery stores, supermarkets, food banks, farmers' markets and vendors who sell food, convenience stores, and other businesses that generate the majority of their revenue from the sale of canned food, dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh meats, fish, and

⁷ CDC. People with certain medical conditions. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

⁸https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_1.pdf

poultry, and any other household consumer products, as well as pet food, feed, and other animal supplies

- Food and agriculture workers, including farms, ranches and other food cultivation operations
- Food processing or packaging operations
- Public transit workers
- Critical manufacturing workers, including:
 - Medical supplies and equipment, manufacturing agents, chemicals, fertilizer, pharmaceuticals, sanitary products, household paper products, microelectronics/semi-conductors, primary metals, electrical equipment, appliances and components, and transportation equipment
- Adult and child protective services workers
- Public health, environmental, occupational health and other workers **who perform in-person** inspections to promote health and safety of licensed and unlicensed facilities and operations
- Mortuary, cremation and cemetery service workers
- Court personnel; elected and appointed officials in government **who are unable to work remotely and/or telework**
- Personnel who provide in-person services necessary to maintain the safety and sanitation of residences or essential businesses including security services, towing services, custodial services, plumbers, electricians, and other skilled trades
- Hardware and construction stores
- Laundromats and dry cleaner services
- Workers not covered in Phase 1A in research centers and laboratories **who are unable to work remotely and/or telework**
- Workers and volunteers who provide in-person services to indigent or needy populations
- Laboratories and defense and national security-related operations supporting the United States government, or contractors to the United States government or any federal entity **who are unable to work remotely and/or telework**
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) personnel; PPE and vaccine warehouse workers

D. Populations in congregate settings: Persons in congregate settings who have not been vaccinated as part of other phases will be identified as a vulnerable population. Populations in congregate settings include those persons unable to self-isolate or stay six feet apart from each other, which can result in increased spread of COVID-19 within and outside congregate settings. Congregate settings include homeless shelters, residential treatment centers, community homes, corrections or detention facilities, and juvenile justice facilities.

PHASE 1C: AGE 60 YEARS OR OLDER, OTHER ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Below is the sequence for Phase 1C vaccine distribution.

A. Persons 60 years or older

B. Essential workers not included in Phase 1B and who are unable to work remotely and/or telework:

Workers falling within this category will be vaccinated in the following order.

- Businesses that store, transport or deliver goods or services directly to residences, retailers, government institutions, or essential businesses
 - Automobile repair facilities, bike repair facilities, and retailers who generate the majority of their revenue from the sale of automobile or bike repair products
 - Airlines and airport operations
 - Taxis and other private transportation providers
 - Transportation network companies

- Utilities, including contractors, suppliers, and supportive operations, engaged in power generation, fuel supply and transmission, water and wastewater supply
- Food service personnel not included in Phase 1B, including restaurant and quick service food operations and food prep centers
- Consumer goods, retail
- Finance/banking staff, including banks, credit unions, insurance providers, payroll services, brokerage services and investment management firms
- Information technology and communications personnel
- Energy industry personnel
- Legal and accounting personnel
- Media personnel
- Veterinary and livestock services, animal shelters and facilities providing pet adoption, grooming, daycare or boarding services

PHASE 2: ALL PERSONS 16 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER NOT RECOMMENDED FOR VACCINATION IN AN EARLIER PHASE

Note: Only the Pfizer vaccine is authorized for persons 16 or 17 years of age at this time.

Note: Within a given phase, invitations for New Mexicans to schedule vaccine appointments will be made at random.

VERIFICATION

Verification of Employment: Workers in each category will be required to verify their employment through appropriate means. Additionally, all workers must provide a sworn attestation that the information they provide is true and accurate.

Verification of Qualifying Conditions: Individuals should be prepared to verify medically qualifying conditions. To do so, individuals may provide a note from a provider, emergency department or hospital discharge summary, prescription bottle, prescription, or other form of validation.

Appendix A

Occupation Category: Healthcare Worker

All hospital personnel with direct patient care

- A wide array of medical house staff (i.e., interns, residents, fellows), nurses, nurses' aides, physical therapists, physicians, physicians' assistants, respiratory therapists, speech pathologists, students (medical, nursing, PT, RT), midwives, nutritionists, CRNAs, audiology, interpreters, blood donation workers, podiatrists, laboratorians, organ donation procurement workers
- Staff who provide cleaning, food and other services to support patients
- Emergency room staff
- Ancillary staff directly interacting with patients or infectious materials: laboratory personnel, phlebotomists, radiology technicians

Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person services in the following areas:

- Primary care, family practice, behavioral health, family planning, and other specialty practices
- Dialysis and infusion centers
- Inpatient or outpatient medical settings
- Public health offices
- Imaging centers
- Dental
- Optometry and ophthalmology
- Rehabilitation services, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, vocational rehabilitation and independent living
- Community health workers (CHWs) who provide in-person services

Residents and staff in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who interact with patients; medical cannabis dispensary workers

Home health and hospice workers including home health aides, caregivers, and companions

Workers with patients undergoing chemotherapy

Autopsy room staff, coroners, embalmers, and funeral home staff at risk of exposure to bodily fluids

COVID-19 testing site staff and those administering COVID-19 vaccine

Support service providers for persons with disabilities and persons providing in-person interpretation services

Occupation Category: First Responder

Medical first responders (EMS, fire department, and law enforcement personnel who provide emergency medical services and transportation) and hospital transport personnel

Occupation Category: Congregate Care

Persons working in congregate settings (including correctional facilities, juvenile justice facilities, homeless shelters, residential treatment centers, or community homes)