

Healthcare and Related Personnel Eligible for Phase 1a Vaccinations

The goal in Phase 1a is to vaccinate as many workers as possible 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. This is not related to professional licenses, but whether the worker must work in-person and could have close contact with someone who is or might be infectious or with infectious materials.

The state is attempting to vaccinate those who have direct contact with known COVID-positive patients and infectious materials first, but all health care providers and support staff who provide in-person healthcare and support services or work with persons living in congregate settings will be eligible to receive vaccine during Phase 1a. We encourage all eligible individuals to preregister to receive notice when you can schedule an appointment to receive your first dose of vaccine. Examples of individuals who are eligible for vaccine in Phase 1a include, but are not limited to:

- Hospital Personnel
 - A wide array of medical house staff (i.e., interns, residents, fellows), nurses, nurse's aides, physical therapists (PT), physicians, physician assistants, respiratory therapists (RT), speech pathologists, students (medical, nursing, PT, RT)
 - Ancillary staff directly interacting with patients or infectious materials: laboratory personnel, phlebotomists, and radiology technicians
 - Staff who provide cleaning, food and other services to support patients
 - Emergency room staff
- Medical first responders (EMS, fire department, and law enforcement personnel who provide emergency medical services and transportation) and hospital transport personnel
- Persons working in congregate settings, including correctional facilities, juvenile justice facilities, shelters, residential treatment centers, or community homes.
- Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person services in dialysis and infusion centers
- Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person services in inpatient or outpatient medical settings
- Home health and Hospice workers including home health aides, caregivers, companions
- Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person services in public health offices
- Autopsy room staff, coroners, embalmers, and funeral home staff at risk of exposure to bodily fluids
- COVID-19 testing site staff
- Workers with patients undergoing chemotherapy
- Workers (including pharmacists and occupational health staff) administering COVID-19 vaccines

- Residents and workers (whether paid or volunteer) in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities (LTCFs)
 - Please note: most LTCFs in New Mexico will receive vaccination services directly from CVS and Walgreens via previous enrollment in the federal LTCF partnership program. Enrolled locations will be contacted by either Walgreens or CVS to arrange services for both LTCF staff and residents.
- Pharmacists
- Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person services in primary care, family practice, behavioral health, family planning and other specialty practices
- Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person services in imaging centers
- Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person services in dental and optometry or ophthalmology practices and other related specialties
- Persons providing direct medical care or other in-person rehabilitation services, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, vocational rehabilitation, and independent living providers
- Support services providers for persons with disabilities and persons providing in-person sign language or other interpretation services for persons who communicate using sign language

Minimizing disuse of scarce COVID-19 vaccine

To avoid wastage or disuse of scarce supplies and maximize their benefit to New Mexicans:

- Doses may be allocated based on the assumption that immunization will be accepted by some but not all who are offered the vaccine, and then adjusted later based on the number of doses that are accepted
- After intensive and appropriate efforts to reach the groups prioritized at that moment, facilities may offer vaccine promptly to persons in lower priority groups when:
 - Demand subsides in the current groups, or
 - Doses are about to expire according to labeling instructions.
- Health Care Facilities may temporarily adjust prioritization based on other resource constraints while continuing efforts to immunize higher priority groups as soon as feasible.