



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Commissioner

December 29, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Vaccination for COVID-19 began in New Jersey on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. I am writing to request your help. Please share this important information about COVID-19 vaccine access to all healthcare workers, paid and unpaid.

New Jersey has experienced over 400,000 positive cases and approximately 16,000 deaths associated with COVID-19. Vaccination is the latest tool in our toolbox to stop the spread. New Jersey recently rolled out COVID-19 vaccines step-by-step to serve all who live, work or study in the state.

Starting in mid-December and continuing into early 2021, vaccine access will be given to New Jersey's Phase 1A Group: health care workers, who are paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. Phase 1A also includes long-term care residents and staff. More information about Phase 1A and current vaccine availability is enclosed.

DOH requests your assistance to share key information that ensures an equitable and efficient COVID-19 Vaccination Program. I ask for your help with the following six actions:

1. Encourage your community to stay up-to-date

- Learn the latest from the New Jersey Department of Health:
https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml
- Subscribe to *Vax Matters*, the weekly newsletter issued by NJDOH focused on key updates regarding COVID-19 vaccination in New Jersey:
<https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/vmsignup.shtml>
- Read the latest from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

2. Share factual and reliable information

- Follow @NJDeptofHealth, @NJGov, and @GovMurphy on social media
- Visit covid19.nj.gov for information on the State's COVID-19 response
- Join a COVID-19 Vaccination Essentials webinar co-hosted by the New Jersey Department of Health, Rutgers Project ECHO, and the Nicholson Foundation:
https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/community_health/other/project-echo/covid-19

3. Inform Phase 1A health care workers to pre-register for COVID-19 vaccination

- During early 2021, New Jersey will launch its statewide vaccine scheduling system, the New Jersey Vaccine Scheduling System (NJVSS), to help all potential Phase 1A vaccine recipients to identify nearby points of dispensing sites (PODs) and schedule an appointment. I will be sending you a follow-up email with more information on this vaccine scheduling system in the next 1-2 weeks. Upon receiving the follow-up email, please share the NJVSS link with health care workers in your network.
- A link to NJVSS will also be posted on the State's COVID-19 portal: covid19.nj.gov

4. Host or staff a point of dispensing site

- Pre-register to host a point of dispensing site:
<https://njiis.nj.gov/core/web/index.html#/newFacilityEnrollment>
- **Coming soon!** Sign-up to help supplement staffing at existing point of dispensing sites.

5. Continue public health best practices

- Thank you for continuing to wear masks, social distancing, practicing hand hygiene, and following public health guidance and directives for everyone's safety.
- Sign up to fight COVID by downloading the COVID Alert NJ App here:
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/app>

6. Help health care workers get vaccinated

- If you are eligible under the definition of Phase 1A, I encourage you to schedule your appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine. This will protect yourself and your community against severe COVID-19 symptoms.
- Vaccine dispensing sites are NOW OPEN across New Jersey for Phase 1A healthcare workers. Attached is a list of open vaccine dispensing sites.
- Potential vaccine recipients that fall in Phase 1A healthcare workers can choose the vaccine dispensing site nearest to their home or work
- Please call the site's phone number to schedule an appointment.
- No walk-in appointments are available at this time.
- Please note that vaccine dispensing sites vary in hours of operation and scheduling processes. We ask for your patience as the State and vaccine dispensing sites continue to refine our operations for the vaccines program.
- Those not yet eligible for the vaccine, you can learn more about the vaccines program on covid19.nj.gov.

We are trying to reach as many healthcare workers as possible. You may receive this message more than once – I apologize for this inconvenience. Your help is critical in ensuring a successful COVID-19 vaccination program. The State of New Jersey appreciates your support.

Sincerely,



Judith Persichilli, RN, BSN, MA
New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner