

DIRECTIONS: Read the following information about the COVID-19 vaccine. The information comes from a February 10th CT Health I-Team article. New vocabulary is underlined and the words are defined on page 3. After you read the article, answer the questions on page 4.

UPDATED: Coronavirus In Connecticut

Excerpt of update written by Bonnie Phillips, February 10, 2021

COVID Vaccine – Update

On Feb. 10, DPH reported that disparities exist in COVID-19 vaccine distribution across racial lines with Black populations lagging behind white and Hispanic populations. The data, as of Feb. 3, show that of those 75 and older 31.4% of whites have received the vaccine, compared to 34.8% of Hispanics and 19.3% of Blacks. Asians had the highest percentage at 51.7%.

“As we open up the vaccine program to individuals 65 and over, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure that the vaccine is reaching the communities and populations who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19,” said Acting DPH Commissioner Deidre Gifford.

People age 75 and older can still register for an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, as part of the state’s phase 1B rollout plan.

Individuals 65 and older are eligible to register for an appointment starting Thursday, 2/11.

If your healthcare provider is not yet taking appointments, you can call **877-918-2224** or register at Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS): <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/onlinevaccine> The governor on Monday indicated that some vaccine locations have appointments now available.

Individuals with a high-risk conditions and front-line essential workers will follow the 65 and older group. The scheduling for vaccinations will open sometime **early March**.

Phase 1C and Phase 2 will be determined at a later date and vaccinations will be available in **May or June**.

All eligible residents are required to make an appointment in advance of receiving the vaccine, using the following tools:

- **Healthcare Provider:** Many residents have already been or will be contacted to schedule an appointment by their health care provider if their provider is participating in the state's vaccine program. Not all providers are administering the vaccine. A list of participating providers is available at ct.gov/covidvaccine.
- **Online:** A form can be accessed online at ct.gov/covidvaccine that allows individuals to schedule an appointment through the web-based Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS).
- **Telephone:** Those without internet access can call Connecticut's COVID Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line at **877-918-2224**. On Feb. 8, the phones will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with additional staff to book up to 10,000 appointments per week at 12 locations.

Starting next week **CVS** and **Walgreens** will be participating in the vaccination program. Vaccines will be available to those who meet the state eligibility requirements.

You can register in advance at CVS.com or on the CVS app or by calling 800-746-7287.

Walgreens said appointments can be made at Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine.

As of Feb. 8, 387,174 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been administered; 129,907 second doses have been administered for a total of 517,051.

The state has added a map indicating distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine by community. View it here: <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/CoVP-COVID-Vaccine-Distribution-Data/bhcd-4mnv/>

To read the full Health ITeam article, go to:

<http://c-hit.org/2021/02/10/coronavirus-faqs-resources/>

Important Reminder: Information can change often! Be sure to look for updates. For up-to-date information, go to:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations>

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

1. **DPH:** Department of Public Health
2. **Disparities:** differences between people or things that you notice that can be unfair
3. **Distribution:** the act of giving or delivering something to people
4. **Lagging:** falling behind
5. **Redoubling:** Increasing or intensifying
6. **Disproportionately impacted:** having or showing a difference that is not fair, reasonable, or expected
7. **Register:** sign up
8. **Phase(s):** arranged in layers or tiers. The phases are:
 - **1A:** Healthcare workers, Long-Term Care Residents and Medical First Responders (such as Emergency Medical Technicians/EMTs, firefighters and police officers)
 - **1B: Scheduling Now:** Adults age 65 or older
 - **1B Scheduling Information coming soon:**
 - Persons age 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions (such as cancer, diabetes or heart conditions)
 - Front-line essential workers (such as food service, postal service and grocery store workers). Note that employers will coordinate the vaccine for front-line workers
 - People in facilities such as homeless shelters will be phased in throughout 1B.

Remember to check CT.Gov for the most current information.
9. **Rollout:** when a new product or service is first offered for use
10. **Eligible:** able to do or receive something such as the vaccine based on your age or another requirement (rule)
11. **High-risk:** having a lot of risk because of an illness that someone has
12. **Healthcare provider:** A doctor or person who provides healthcare services

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Which age group can register now for an appointment for a vaccine?
2. Is an appointment required?
3. How can someone make an appointment? What are the ways described in the article?
4. Why do you think it is important to look for up-to-date information? Where can you find it?
5. If you were helping a family member get their vaccine what steps would you take?