

For your staff:

Phase 1a (now) - All 14 Vermont hospitals have been asked to provide vaccination to health care personnel in their hospital-service area identified in this initial phase. To ensure equitable vaccine access for eligible health care personnel, vaccine distribution should be balanced between hospital-based and non-hospital-based personnel.

The Vermont Vaccine Implementation Advisory Committee has specified that "health care personnel" includes:

- Long-term care staff* who have direct patient contact
- Health care providers (all classes including students and support personnel), primarily but not exclusively located in the Emergency Departments and Intensive Care Units, providing care to patients with COVID-19
- Emergency Medical Services personnel** with direct patient contact
- Home health care clinical staff and caregivers who have contact with multiple patients or who are high-risk for serious illness from COVID-19
- Any other health care providers and staff who have patient contact

*Staff includes all health care providers who enter the facility, regardless of who employs them, as well as ancillary staff. Family caregivers are not included in this definition.

**Emergency medical service personnel and responders include staff within ambulance or rescue squads, fire or police departments, who respond to emergency calls to provide or assist with care or transport for, or access to, sick or injured persons.

Please note that personnel who are exclusively seeing patients **virtually** do not meet the "direct patient contact" requirement to be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1A.

Individual hospitals will be reaching out to staff and health care workers in their area to schedule appointments. ***Health care providers and staff who have not heard from their local hospital by January 11, 2021 should reach out to the hospital.***

For your patients:

Vermont plans to use age groupings to determine who can receive the vaccine next based on our primary goal with vaccination efforts – to save lives. Planning is still ongoing, but we expect the first age grouping eligible will be people 75 and older, then 70 and older, then 65 and older, as vaccine supply allows. Based on what we know now about how much vaccine Vermont will get from the federal government, it will probably take until spring to finish these groups. ***This is an estimated plan and timeframe that could shift based on how much vaccine Vermont receives and how many people choose to get vaccinated when they are eligible.***

Vaccine will also be available to people who have certain high-risk health conditions. Those conditions are being identified now and will be shared as soon as possible.