



Prevent • Promote • Protect

1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., Suite 2044
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(719) 578-3199 *phone*
(719) 575-8664 *fax*
www.elpasocountyhealth.org

Memorandum

To: School Partners
From: El Paso County Public Health
Re: COVID-19 Phased Vaccine Distribution Update
Date: January 29, 2021

Preserving in-person education in El Paso County has been a priority since the beginning of our COVID-19 response efforts in early 2020. Today Gov. Polis announced his commitment to educators and child care providers by prioritizing Pre-K-12 educators and child care providers' access to COVID-19 vaccines effective February 8, 2021, in Phase 1B.1 of the [state's phased distribution plan](#). El Paso County Public Health looks forward to working with our Phase 1 vaccine providers to accomplish this important task.

Phase 1 vaccine providers in El Paso County are working collaboratively to assure that vaccine received in El Paso County is administered in a coordinated and efficient manner. Currently the largest barrier is a lack of sufficient supply of vaccine; however, we anticipate supply will increase in the coming weeks. We are currently planning with our Phase 1 providers to assure that there is a streamlined effort to vaccinate frontline essential workers in education in a coordinated, fair and equitable manner. We will continue to prioritize these efforts and share details of these plans as they become available.

In order to support this unprecedented vaccination effort, there are steps that can be taken now to help streamline this process. Please share the following link with your staff to provide them with information regarding the vaccines currently available: covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-faq. We have also included the state's updated phased distribution plan below and we encourage your staff members to seek the vaccine at an earlier phase if they meet that eligibility criteria. Individuals who have questions regarding their personal health history as it relates to vaccination are encouraged to discuss those with their primary care provider to help inform their decisions. We would also request schools survey their staff to assess who will be willing to accept vaccine once it is available. By identifying staff who wish to be vaccinated and compiling that information now we will be better poised to move quickly to vaccinations as they become available. As we finalize plans with Phase 1 providers, we will provide more details regarding how these staff lists will be used to facilitate an equitable vaccine administration process.

While we continue to plan for these efforts, we are also working to complete the current priority groups. Current priority groups eligible for vaccine in El Paso County include:

- Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients (e.g., home health, hospice, pharmacy, dental, etc.) and EMS.

- Firefighters, police, COVID-19 response personnel, correctional workers, and funeral services.
- People age 70 and older.

COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION		REVISED DATE: 01/29/2021	
Winter ❄️			
PHASE: 1A	Highest-risk health care workers and individuals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › People who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Long-term care facility staff and residents.
1B.1	Coloradans age 70+, moderate-risk health care workers, and first responders:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients (e.g. home health, hospice, pharmacy, dental, etc.) and EMS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Firefighters, police, COVID-19 response personnel, correctional workers, and funeral services. › People age 70 and older.
1B.2	Coloradans ages 65-69, pre-K-12 educators and child care workers in licensed child care programs, and continuity of state government:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Child care workers in licensed child care programs, teachers (full-time and substitutes), bus, food, counselors, administrative, safety and other support services offered inside the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Members of the Executive and Judicial branches of state government. *note: members of the legislative branch have already received access to the vaccine › People ages 65-69.
1B.3	Frontline essential workers and people age 16-64 with two or more high risk conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Frontline essential workers in food and agriculture, manufacturing, U.S. postal service, public transit and specialized transportation staff, grocery, public health, frontline essential human service workers, faith leaders, and direct care providers for Coloradans experiencing homelessness and essential frontline journalists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › People 16-64 with 2 or more high risk conditions as listed: Coloradans with cancer (defined as patients who are currently receiving treatment or have received treatment within the last month for cancer), chronic kidney disease, COPD, diabetes mellitus, Down syndrome, specific heart conditions (heart failure, cardiomyopathies or coronary heart disease, and severe valvular/congenital heart disease), obesity (BMI $\geq 30\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, solid organ transplant and people with disabilities that prevent them from wearing masks.
Spring 🌸			
PHASE: 2	People age 60-64, people with high risk conditions, and the continuation of operations for state government and continuity of local government:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › People age 60-64. › People 16-59 with 1 high risk condition as listed: Coloradans with cancer (defined as patients who are currently receiving treatment or have received treatment within the last month for cancer), chronic kidney disease, COPD, diabetes mellitus, Down syndrome, specific heart conditions (heart failure, cardiomyopathies or coronary heart disease, and severe valvular/congenital heart disease), obesity (BMI $\geq 30\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, solid organ transplant. People with disabilities that prevent them from wearing masks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Local continuity of local government defined as executives of those branches of government and a limited amount of essential support staff needed to provide for continuity of government. › Continuation of operations for state government is defined as those individuals defined by continuity of operations plans that each agency holds to continue to provide services. › Adults who received a placebo during a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial.
Summer ☀️			
PHASE: 3	General public:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Anyone age 16 - 59. 	<p>*Timeline subject to change based on supply chain. Prioritization subject to change based CDC guidance, data, science, availability.</p>
- In progress - Upcoming phase		! Please note: As we move through phases, people in previous phases remain eligible.	

Lastly, as was stated above vaccine distribution is still very limited, and providers in our community can move only as quickly as the number of vaccine doses available. As we begin to move into the next phases it will take many weeks to schedule staff, administer vaccinations and accomplish this important work. In El Paso County we are committed to working closely with our Phase 1 providers to maximize the use of our community’s health care infrastructure in an efficient and effective manner. We will continue to provide information as it becomes available. Thank you for your continued partnership.

For more information, please visit www.elpasocountyhealth.org.