



## COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

December 21, 2020

Rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine began and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the Moderna vaccine for emergency use last week. As a result, many are curious as to how rollout will occur and when they might expect to receive the vaccine. In an effort to answer some of these questions and gather the latest information in one place, SAHF created this fact sheet to serve as a resource for affordable housing providers as vaccine distribution begins.

### Who is eligible to receive the vaccine right now?

On December 1, 2020, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that that **health care personnel** and **residents of long-term care facilities** (LTCFs) should be the first to receive any COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA for distribution.

### How does CDC define health care personnel and long-term care facility residents?

Health care personnel are paid or unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. These include individuals providing clinical care as well as support staff members, such as food and environmental staff.

Long-term care facility residents are adults who reside in facilities that provide a variety of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently. These include adults residing in skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. Since assisted living definitions vary by state, please defer to your state regarding what facilities qualify.

### Who is next on the priority list?

On December 20, a CDC panel recommended that **people age 75 and older and “frontline essential workers”**, such as emergency responders, teachers and grocery store employees, **should be next in line to receive the coronavirus vaccine** in the United States. Vaccine access for these groups should begin in the coming weeks.



## Which professions include “frontline essential workers”?

Frontline essential workers are individuals working in sectors considered essential to the functioning of society, including those whose jobs are essential for the food supply, U.S. postal workers, public transit workers, and educators. Many of these workers are unable to work from home and have a high level of interaction with the public or others in the workplace that place them at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection.

### Essential Workers\* (total ~87M)

Frontline Essential Workers (~30M)	Other Essential Workers (~57M)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Responders (Firefighters, Police)</li><li>• Education (teachers, support staff, daycare)</li><li>• Food &amp; Agriculture</li><li>• Manufacturing</li><li>• Corrections workers</li><li>• U.S. Postal service workers</li><li>• Public transit workers</li><li>• Grocery store workers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transportation and logistics</li><li>• Food Service</li><li>• Shelter &amp; Housing (construction)</li><li>• Finance</li><li>• IT &amp; Communication</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Media</li><li>• Legal</li><li>• Public Safety (Engineers)</li><li>• Water &amp; Wastewater</li></ul>

**Frontline Essential Workers:** workers who are in sectors essential to the functioning of society and are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2

\*CISA: Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers: <https://www.cisa.gov/news/2020/08/18/cisa-releases-updated-guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workers>

Source: Dooling, K., (2020, December 20). *Phased Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines* [PowerPoint presentation]. ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Work Group Meeting. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2020-12/slides-12-20/02-COVID-Dooling.pdf>

## When will other groups be able to receive the vaccine?

As of right now, the timeline for additional priority groups is unknown. As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups. **All 64 public health immunization programs in the U.S.**, including the territories, the District of Columbia, and the cities of Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, and San Antonio, **were required to develop COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans based on current CDC guidance.** While these plans will continue to evolve as more of the vaccine becomes available, each jurisdiction outlined how they will prioritize who will receive the vaccine during these first few months. Some jurisdictions, like San Antonio and North Carolina, specifically cite their intent to prioritize historically marginalized communities who lack access to healthcare services and who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.



### How do I find what my jurisdiction has planned?

Click on the links below to access the latest available version of each jurisdiction’s COVID-19 vaccine information. Resources vary from state to state, and may include infographics (like [this one from South Dakota](#)) and FAQ sheets in addition to general updates and/or information.

<a href="#">Alabama</a>	<a href="#">Alaska</a>	<a href="#">American Samoa</a>	<a href="#">Arizona</a>	<a href="#">Arkansas</a>	<a href="#">California</a>
<a href="#">Chicago</a>	<a href="#">Colorado</a>	<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	<a href="#">Delaware</a>	<a href="#">District of Columbia</a>	<a href="#">Florida</a>
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	<a href="#">Guam</a>	<a href="#">Hawai'i</a>	<a href="#">Houston</a>	<a href="#">Idaho</a>	<a href="#">Illinois</a>
<a href="#">Indiana</a>	<a href="#">Iowa</a>	<a href="#">Kansas</a>	<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	<a href="#">Louisiana</a>	<a href="#">Maine</a>
<a href="#">Marshall Islands</a>	<a href="#">Maryland</a>	<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	<a href="#">Michigan</a>	<a href="#">Micronesia</a>	<a href="#">Minnesota</a>
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	<a href="#">Missouri</a>	<a href="#">Montana</a>	<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	<a href="#">Nevada</a>	<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>
<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	<a href="#">New York</a>	<a href="#">New York City</a>	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	<a href="#">North Dakota</a>
<a href="#">Northern Mariana Islands</a>	<a href="#">Ohio</a>	<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	<a href="#">Oregon</a>	<a href="#">Palau</a>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>
<a href="#">Philadelphia</a>	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	<a href="#">Puerto Rico</a>	<a href="#">San Antonio</a>	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	<a href="#">South Dakota</a>
<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	<a href="#">Texas</a>	<a href="#">Utah</a>	<a href="#">Vermont</a>	<a href="#">Virgin Islands</a>	<a href="#">Virginia</a>
<a href="#">Washington</a>	<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	<a href="#">Wyoming</a>		

### What about 202 properties and the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program?

Through the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, CDC is partnering with CVS, Walgreens, and Managed Health Care Associates, Inc. (MHA) to offer onsite COVID-19 vaccination services for residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and “similar congregate living setting for individuals older than 65 years of age”. Facilities had the opportunity to sign up for the program and select a pharmacy partner last month.

***Per the CDC, enrollment in this program is not an order for vaccine or guarantee of vaccination services. Enrollment simply signifies that your facility is willing to receiving vaccine from CVS, Walgreens, or a participating MHA pharmacy when vaccine becomes available and if your facility is eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine under ACIP recommendations. As vaccines become available, CVS, Walgreens, or a participating MHA pharmacy will reach out directly to***



your facility/ property to schedule and coordinate onsite vaccination clinics. Vaccine distribution through the Program is set to begin on December 21, 2020.

For more information about Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, go to the [CDC website](#). LeadingAge has also put together information about the program in their [FAQs and Resources on COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccinations fact sheet](#), starting on page 3.

### **In the meantime, what do I tell residents?**

Immunization with a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is a critical component of the United States' strategy to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths and to help put an end to the pandemic. Even as people get the vaccine, it will be important for everyone to continue to use all the tools available to help stop this pandemic, like covering their mouth and nose with a mask, washing their hands, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. You may direct residents to the resources above or [CDC's COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#) to learn more.