

# COVID – 19 Vaccine Process

Our Agency has been contacted by the Connecticut Department of Health confirming the approval for Vaccines during the **Phase 1a** roll out. This includes paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure. This description does apply to Personal Care Assistants and Homemaker/Companions.

The CT department of Health has asked that we communicate eligibility for the vaccine to all staff.

If you choose to take the vaccine, your Name and Email address will be submitted to the VAMS – Vaccine Administration Management System as soon as possible.

The VAMS system will then send you an email with instructions, next steps, locations and available appointment schedules.

## What you need to do first.

1. Review the information provided by Center of Disease Control (CDC) and State of Connecticut information about the vaccine.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>  
<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/covid-19%20vaccinations>
2. Talk with your doctor about the following;
  - a. Is the vaccine right for you?
  - b. Explain the type of work you do and how you can be exposed.
  - c. Ask your doctor about any potential risks for taking or not taking the vaccine.
  - d. Check your medical insurance for coverage. For example; ConnectiCare stated the following; FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines are covered under your health plan. You will pay \$0 out-of-pocket for both doses of the vaccine you receive. In some situations, the government may cover the vaccine cost.
3. After reviewing all of the information, contact the office and let us know if you want to take the vaccine.
4. If yes, validate your personal information
  - a. First Name / Last Name
  - b. Email Address

**Call the office if you have any additional questions or concerns.**

## **Phases of the COVID-19 Vaccination, and how you access vaccine – State of CT**

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/covid-19%20vaccinations>

We know it's important to each resident of our state to know when they'll be eligible for a vaccine, and what the instructions are to get one. The process may be a little different for everyone, but you can always visit this page to find out which phase you may be in, find more details about future phases, and see where the state is.

Where we are: The state is in phase 1a, and has started vaccinations. Information about phase 1a is below. We expect that Phase 1a will last until January or early February, so not everyone in eligible populations will be vaccinated immediately. The state continues planning for future phases.

### **Phase 1a**

Connecticut is currently in for Phase 1a of vaccine roll-out. Those eligible to receive vaccine, based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, in Phase 1a are:

**Healthcare Personnel:** All paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients of infectious materials.

**Long Term Care Facility Residents:** Adults who reside in facilities that provide a range of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently.

**First Responders at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their response to medical emergencies such as Emergency Medical Technicians, Police, and Fire.**

Phase 1a does not include healthcare personnel that do not have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. For example, if you are providing telehealth services and do not currently work in a healthcare setting providing in-person care, you are not be eligible for vaccine in phase 1a.

### **How to get access to a vaccination**

Healthcare personnel who have questions about how to receive vaccine should contact their organizational leadership and speak with their Employer Coordinator, a staff person who has been designated to ensure the right people in your workplace gain access to the vaccine.

Vaccine administration for healthcare workers will be available at hospitals, outpatient clinics, and local health departments. Vaccine is expected to be very limited in December, but all healthcare personnel should be able to receive their first dose of the COVID vaccine during the month of January if they have not already received it in December.

Residents of long-term care facilities should talk to their facility leadership and contacts about receiving vaccine. All vaccine clinics in long-term care facilities will be administered by CVS and Walgreens as part of a program coordinated by the federal government, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Public Health.