



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner

December 24, 2020

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to provide an update on allocation of COVID-19 vaccine. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has provided recommendations for allocation of COVID-19 vaccine during the initial phases of vaccination while supply is limited. On December 1, 2020, ACIP recommended that health care personnel at high risk for exposure to COVID-19 and staff and residents of long-term care facilities be offered vaccination first, during Phase 1a of distribution.

On December 20, 2020, ACIP recommended that vaccination be offered to frontline essential workers (non-health care workers) and people ages 75 years or older during Phase 1b, and that in Phase 1c, vaccination be offered to people ages 65 to 74 years old, people ages 16 to 64 years old with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not included in Phase 1b (see ACIP recommendation [here](#)).

In early December, New York State (NYS) issued requirements for allocating the limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine during Phase 1a. NYS prioritized health care personnel who are at high risk for COVID-19 exposure in hospital settings and people living or working in long-term care facilities, for the first week of vaccination (December 13, 2020 to December 19, 2020). NYS issued additional guidance on December 20, 2020, stating that in addition to these groups, staff of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs); emergency medical services providers; congregate settings overseen by the NYS Office of Persons With Developmental Disabilities, Office of Mental Health, or Office of Addiction Services and Supports; and funeral workers, coroners and medical examiners, will be prioritized as part of Phase 1a.

Consistent with these recommendations, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) has allocated COVID-19 vaccine to facilities in New York City for administration to health care personnel who are at high risk for exposure to COVID-19, including hospital staff, FQHC staff, and emergency medical service providers; people who live or work in long-term care facilities; and people who live or work in congregate settings overseen by the NYS Office of Persons With Developmental Disabilities, Office of Mental Health, or Office of Addiction Services and Supports.

The supply of COVID-19 vaccine remains limited and has not yet met demand among the groups prioritized for initial vaccination. When more vaccine supply becomes available, NYS will expand recommendations on who can be vaccinated to include additional groups, such as health care personnel in independent practices who were not part of the initial allocation.

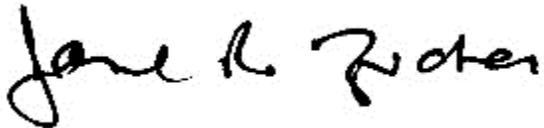
Vaccinators must follow these NYS recommendations and cannot provide COVID-19 vaccine to groups that are not yet prioritized.

Providers in NYC who want to obtain COVID-19 vaccine for their practice should register through the Citywide Immunization Registry [here](#). Please note that, although you may have registered and been approved for the COVID-19 vaccination program, you may not receive vaccine supply until it is more widely available. NYC will continue to allocate vaccine to providers vaccinating populations that have been prioritized by NYS.

The NYC Health Department will continue to release information as it becomes available to help providers plan for allocation, distribution, and administration of COVID-19 vaccine. Updates are available at our COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Providers page (nyc.gov/health/covidvaccineprovider).

Thank you for your continued efforts to fight this pandemic and promote the health of New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane R. Zucker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunizations