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Humboldt Open To Phase 1B-Tier 1 Age 75+ Immediately Workforces in 1B-Tier 1 in coming weeks

Humboldt County Public Health (HCPH) has opened age-based criteria for Phase 1B-Tier 1 to 75 years and older immediately to allow for an expanded population in our county who can receive vaccine. While state and federal officials have suggested there is sufficient vaccine to open to 65 years and older, this is not the condition locally. We encourage all medical providers who are approved COVID-19 vaccinators to immediately use available vaccine as quickly and safely as possible to vaccinate priority Phase 1A health care workers who have not been vaccinated, and if unable to vaccinate that population, move on to Phase 1B-Tier 1 aged 75 years and older. When vaccinating within Phase 1B-Tier 1 age 75 years and older, preference should be given to those at higher risk for severe COVID-19 complications (see below or reference CDC guidance). If unable to prioritize based on Phase 1A or risk criteria in Phase 1B-Tier 1, please vaccinate anyone who is 75 years and older.

Vaccine supplies should be used expeditiously and safely to vaccinate our community immediately. Plan clinics according to your maximal capacity and have contingency plans for use of expiring doses should they appear. Plan to hold vaccine for no longer than 7 days. Use expiring doses on priority groups if possible, but when not possible, use expiring doses on anyone approved for the vaccine by FDA. If you are aware of vaccine that will expire, and you do not have a plan for use, contact the Humboldt County Health Officer through Sheriff Dispatch (707-445-7251) to come up with an immediate plan for use before these doses expire. As a scarce resource, avoid wasting vaccine, plan clinics accordingly.

Plan clinics and vaccine use on a weekly basis, and place orders based on expected throughput for the upcoming 7 days. Do not plan to store or stockpile vaccine. Vaccine is shipped as first or second doses, do not store or hold for second doses. Public Health will release second doses at appropriate intervals and may choose to hold or delay second doses depending on vaccine availability. Public Health will work with any vaccinators that are not able to use supplies in a timely manner to redirect those supplies to other vaccination sites that are able to use the vaccine within the coming week. More vaccine supplies arrive weekly and will be distributed based on need and use as well as equity. HCPH will advocate for more doses if our supply becomes insufficient to meet current weekly demand for scheduled clinics.

For providers who are not part of a network that is an approved vaccination site, please collect information on your Phase 1B-Tier 1 75 years and older age group immediately, with priority for risk conditions if possible. Public Health will put out media communications next week on efforts to reach those populations that do not have access to approved vaccine provider sites through their primary care doctor. Additionally, if you would like to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider, please sign up at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/COVIDVaccineEnrollment.aspx>

We strongly encourage all practices who would like to vaccinate to sign up now. The process takes time and effort, requires much training and processes to be in place, so read all materials and allow plenty of time for application and approval. The state also continues to limit number of COVID vaccine providers at this time.



DHHS Administration
phone: (707) 441-5400
fax: (707) 441-5412

Behavioral Health
phone: (707) 268-2990
fax: (707) 476-4049

Social Services
phone: (707) 476-4700
fax: (707) 441-2096

For community members and patients who are not part of approved COVID-19 vaccination practice, who do not have a local provider or who are uninsured, please direct them to the following link to gather information so we can send invites to a COVID-19 vaccine clinic near them:

<https://humboldt.gov/2872/Vaccine-Info>

This link is being shared today only with independent medical providers in Humboldt County to share with their patients before it is shared over broader media next week. Please share with your practices first to give them access to the interest form. All ages can express an interest in vaccine at this time via the form at the above website. However, open tiers remain limited to Phase 1A (all tiers) and Phase 1B-Tier 1 (age 75+ only).

Phase 1 A – all tiers open now for vaccination in Humboldt County

Tier 1

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Also, in concordance with ACIP, residents in these settings
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

Tier 2

- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public health field staff
- Primary Care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics

Tier 3

Other settings and health care workers, including

- Specialty clinics
- Laboratory workers
- Dental and other oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers



Phase 1B-Tier One:

- Individuals 75 and older (**OPEN NOW, PREFERENCE TO RISK FACTORS IF AND WHEN POSSIBLE**)
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: (**OPENING NEXT, FUTURE ALERTS WILL INFORM**)
 - Education and childcare
 - Emergency services
 - Food and agriculture

COVID-19 Higher Risk Conditions (CDC)

Adults of any age with the following conditions **are at increased risk** of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- [Cancer](#)
- [Chronic kidney disease](#)
- [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#)
- [Down Syndrome](#)
- [Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant](#)
- [Obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²\)](#)
- [Severe Obesity \(BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²\)](#)
- [Pregnancy](#)
- [Sickle cell disease](#)
- [Smoking](#)
- [Type 2 diabetes mellitus](#)

COVID-19 is a new disease. Currently there are limited data and information about the impact of many underlying medical conditions on the risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know at this time, adults of any age with the following conditions **might be at an increased risk** for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- [Asthma \(moderate-to-severe\)](#)
- [Cerebrovascular disease \(affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain\)](#)
- [Cystic fibrosis](#)
- [Hypertension or high blood pressure](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines](#)
- [Neurologic conditions, such as dementia](#)
- [Liver disease](#)
- [Overweight \(BMI > 25 kg/m², but < 30 kg/m²\)](#)
- [Pulmonary fibrosis \(having damaged or scarred lung tissues\)](#)
- [Thalassemia \(a type of blood disorder\)](#)
- [Type 1 diabetes mellitus](#)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fgroups-at-higher-risk.html

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