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### 3/9/2021 – COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Update

#### **Humboldt Opens Phase 1B-Tier 1 Age 65+ and Workforces in 1B-Tier 1 expands to higher education** *Food and agriculture next up in March/April*

Humboldt County Public Health (HCPH) has expanded age-based COVID-19 vaccination criteria to include 65+ age group, effective March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Additionally, Phase 1B-Tier 1 is now open to some occupations. These occupations include first responders, all educators and support staff in K-12 education and early childhood education (ECE), and all educators and support staff in higher education. **Phase 1A and the 65+ age group are current priorities for vaccination efforts.** When clinics are not filled with those groups, open vaccine appointments to other priority groups who are open in Phase 1B-Tier 1. If vaccine supplies are more limited, use risk criteria to further prioritize. HCPH will continue to monitor vaccine penetration in each group and open additional priority groups when sufficient vaccine is available. HCPH will continue to hold mass vaccination clinics for all open groups, and encourages each vaccinator to manage their supply to meet needs of all open groups while prioritizing 2<sup>nd</sup> doses.

Given limited vaccine coming to Humboldt County, **HCPH encourages all vaccinators to prioritize 2<sup>nd</sup> doses.** While 2<sup>nd</sup> doses should be given as close as feasible to day 21 for Pfizer and day 28 for Moderna, CDC states the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose can be as far out as day 42 for both vaccines. Both vaccines can be given 4 days early in very limited circumstances, but this is discouraged. Plan clinics according to 2<sup>nd</sup> dose schedule and maximal capacity of clinics. Have contingency plans for use of expiring doses should they appear. Use expiring doses for first or second doses on priority groups, but when not possible, use expiring doses on anyone approved for the vaccine by FDA. If you have vaccine that is about to expire within hours, 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. As a scarce resource, avoid wasting vaccine by planning clinics accordingly. Any wasted doses must be reported immediately locally and to CDC.

Plan clinics and vaccine use on a weekly basis, and place orders based on expected needs and throughput for the upcoming 7 days based on populations that are open for vaccination. New vaccine is shipped weekly. Do not store or hold vaccine for second doses. **Inventory must be reported in VaccineFinder daily.** HCPH will allocate doses at appropriate intervals based on needs/request but may be impacted by need to prioritize second doses over first doses. While not planned, delay of 2<sup>nd</sup> doses may be necessary if supply is severely limited. HCPH 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 in need and able to use the vaccine within the coming 7 days. Weekly allocation is based on need and use as well as equity.

Providers authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccine may schedule their own patients, in line with current HCPH guidance, using either state-provided platforms, or their own EMR, so long as the data is imported into the California immunization registry (CAIR). When scheduling larger clinics, with patients referred by Public Health, providers must use the state scheduling platform and may not increase the size of the clinic within 48 hours of the start date.



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 who are not patients of approved COVID-19 vaccination practice, who do not have a local provider or who are uninsured, please direct to the following link:

<https://humboldt.gov/InterestForm>

When internet access is limited for an individual have family, friends, neighbors fill out the interest form for those unable to do so on their own. If unable to have someone do it on their behalf, direct individuals to call 441-5000 for assistance in filling out the interest form. Those filling out the interest form will be contacted by email when clinics become available. Those with no email will be reached by phone when clinics become available.

## Phase 1 A – all tiers open now

### Tier 1 (OPEN NOW)

- 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 (OPEN NOW)

- 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 (OPEN NOW) 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 - partially open as noted below/future opening dependent on vaccine availability

- Individuals 65 years and older (**OPEN NOW, PREFERENCE TO AGE/RISK FACTORS IF AND WHEN POSSIBLE**)
  - Individuals 16-64 with higher risk medical conditions (**NOT YET OPEN – will open statewide March 15<sup>th</sup>**)
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:
  - Emergency services (**OPEN NOW**)
  - K-12 Education and childcare\* (**OPEN NOW**)
  - Higher Education\* (**OPEN NOW**)
  - Food and agriculture (**NOT OPEN YET – Opening in coming weeks**)

\*educator or support staff (inclusive of transportation, custodial, aides, office staff, cafeteria, maintenance).

Consider using the following language to help determine eligibility groups at your facilities:

**Please bring a photo ID and proof of employment with you to your appointment so staff can verify your eligibility to receive vaccine.** Examples of proof of employment include:

- A name badge or ID card from your employer
- A paystub with your name and your employer's name
- A letter from your employer verifying your employment status (should include your name and be printed on your agency's letterhead, if possible)
- A printed or electronic copy of the email from your employer inviting you to participate in this clinic (must come from an organizational email address, not a private email address)



Beginning March 15, healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals age 16-64 who are deemed to be at the very highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more of the following severe health conditions:

- **Cancer**, current with debilitated or immunocompromised state
- **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
- **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
- **Down syndrome**
- **Immunocompromised state** (weakened immune system) from **solid organ transplant**
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease**
- **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (excludes hypertension)
- **Severe obesity** (Body Mass Index  $\geq 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

*OR*

If as a result of a developmental or other severe high-risk disability one or more of the following applies:

- The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection
- Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival
- Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability

The list of eligible conditions is subject to change as additional scientific evidence is published and as CDPH obtains and analyzes additional state-specific data.

The state of California and Humboldt County will be providing more information in the coming week to guide how these groups can be vaccinated.

