



**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH  
Public Health Director  
Cayuga County Health Department  
8 Dill St.  
Auburn, NY 13021**



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## **Update on Vaccine Clinics for those with Qualifying Health Conditions**

At the time of this press release, the Cayuga County Health Department has not received delivery of vaccine for this week. We were informed the distribution sites have been impacted by the inclement weather across the United States, thereby delaying delivery to us. As we prepare to open up clinics to those residents who have one or more qualifying health conditions, we wanted to inform the public of this update.

Earlier this week we issued a press release that outlined the process for those residents with qualifying health conditions. If you have a qualifying health condition, we ask that you work with your City, Town or Village to get on a list. The City of Auburn and Cayuga County Town and Village offices have been asked to assist with this process as we know not everyone in the county has access to a computer or reliable internet connection to make an online appointment and may not easily navigate calling the state hotline phone number to make an appointment.

If you reside within the City of Auburn, the City has also committed to establishing a wait list for eligible residents. Residents of the City of Auburn may call 315-253-8316 to be placed on a wait list.

In an effort to provide assistance with getting appointments and to try to ensure equitable access to the vaccine, we ask that you are patient with the City, Town and Village representatives, as they adjust their workload to accommodate this additional service recently requested of them. The City, Towns and Villages that are participating, will be collecting your contact information so that when clinics are scheduled they can assist residents with scheduling an appointment. When making an appointment, there are some health-related questions that need to be answered, if anyone is not comfortable giving that information to the Town or Village representative, they will be directed to local pharmacies or the NYS Mass Vaccination Site at the Fairgrounds.

The designated representatives will not be asking to see proof of qualifying health condition. All qualifying health condition documentation required for an appointment will be given to the Health Department upon arrival to the clinic and will not be provided to the City, Towns or Villages. Additionally, as a matter of security for people interested in utilizing this service, it is important to remember, no person will be asked to share their social security number and there is no cost to receive the vaccine.

As a reminder, at this time, the Cayuga County Health Department will require any individual who has qualifying health condition to provide documentation that they are in fact eligible to receive vaccine.



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The eligibility documentation can be in the form of:

- a note on the health care provider's letterhead (including patient name, date of birth and list their health conditions that qualifies them)
- a visit summary note w/ health conditions listed, summary note must be from a visit within the past twelve months
- or a print off from the electronic health record portal with the necessary information

No individual will be allowed to receive the vaccine without qualifying documentation. The Health Department will be keeping the qualifying documentation for auditing purposes.

If you are 65 years of age or older, your age makes you eligible to receive the vaccine at a local pharmacy or state vaccination site, but not at a health department clinic. **In order to attend a health department clinic if you are 65 years of age or older, you must also have a qualifying health condition and a note from your health care provider.**

We are asking that residents begin contacting their health care provider to get the paperwork process started.

As a reminder, beginning February 15, 2021, adult New Yorkers of any age (18 years +) with the following conditions qualify for the vaccine:

- Cancer (current or in remission, including 9/11-related cancers)
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - Pulmonary Disease, including but not limited to, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma (moderate-to-severe), pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, and 9/11 related pulmonary diseases
  - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities including Down Syndrome
  - Heart conditions, including but not limited to heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, or hypertension (high blood pressure)
  - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) including but not limited to solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, use of other immune weakening medicines, or other causes
  - Severe Obesity (BMI 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle cell disease or Thalassemia
  - Type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus
  - Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
  - Neurologic conditions including but not limited to Alzheimer's Disease or dementia
  - Liver disease
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