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## Guidance for Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

There may be some confusion in terms of how the vaccines for COVID-19 are being distributed. There has been a significant amount of misinformation circulating on social media and other places in Cayuga County on who is eligible, and when they can receive the vaccination. The following is meant to clarify the distribution plan as set out by the New York State Department of Health.

Please note - Since vaccine is scarce, it is important that individuals being vaccinated bring proof of working as a health care staff member or in a prioritized profession to the vaccination site. This could include an employee ID card, a letter from an employer or affiliated organization, or a pay stub.

The COVID-19 vaccines must be given according to the prioritization plan established by New York State and the New York State Department of Health

- The first group to be vaccinated at any facility or vaccination site will be health care personnel within the facility at high risk for transmitting or becoming infected with COVID-19, including direct care, administrative staff, and food and housekeeping services staff who have contact with patients or infectious materials.
- After the front-line high-risk staffs are vaccinated, facilities must vaccinate the next priority groups as detailed below.
- **The vaccine cannot be used for any other populations or groups other than those the facility is instructed to vaccinate at this time.**

**The following is the Prioritization Schedule set out by NYSDOH.  
PHASE 1-A ONLY.**

**Prioritization for the COVID-19 Vaccination**

**For the week of December 28, 2020, Urgent Care Centers (UCC), hospitals, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) will receive vaccine.**

**The following populations are prioritized for vaccination:**

- High-risk hospital and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) staff, including Office of Mental Health (OMH) psychiatric centers
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel
- Medical Examiners and Coroners
- Funeral workers who have direct contact with infectious material and bodily fluids
- Agency staff and residents in congregate living situations run by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), OMH and Office of Addictions Services and Supports (OASAS).
- Urgent Care Center staff

**Beginning the week of January 4, 2021 and subject to additional allocations by the federal government, Urgent Care Centers (UCC), dialysis centers, ambulatory care sites, regional hubs and/or local health departments, hospitals, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) will receive vaccine.**

**The following additional populations are prioritized for vaccination for the week of January 4, 2021.**

- All Outpatient/Ambulatory front line, high risk health care providers who provide direct in-person patient care or other staff in a position where they have direct contact with patients, such as receptionists, of any age. This will include but is not limited to hospital and community based ambulatory care, primary care, outpatient behavioral health services, phlebotomists, physical and occupational therapists, and specialty clinics including dialysis centers.
- All front line, high-risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients.
- Health care workers at testing sites.

**If you have questions please go to NYSDOH at [COVID19vaccine@health.ny.gov](mailto:COVID19vaccine@health.ny.gov) or The NYS DOH Help Line at 1-866-881-2809.**

More information will be shared about how to register for a vaccine clinic and additional eligibility criteria as it is determined. We are pleased the vaccine is becoming available and look forward vaccinating members of our community.

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