

County Administrator

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County Administrator

Contra Costa County



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February 18, 2021

COVID 19 Vaccine Update#3 to Department Heads,

At the end of December and in mid-January, we sent out our first COVID-19 Vaccine updates. We let Department Heads know that vaccination is one of the most important tools to end the COVID-19 pandemic and that we had begun distributing COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals. Contra Costa Health Services sent out an update today that impacts our employees. Our role as an employer is to continue to advocate for employee vaccination. The following information is offered to remind you of the process, to keep you up-to-date, and to aid you in answering questions you might receive from our employees on the vaccination rollout.

1. The COVID-19 Vaccine Ethical and Equitable Allocations Committee continues to provide input to Contra Costa Health Services on how to make allocation decisions that are fair and equitable for the entire community (including County staff), based on the recommendations from federal and state authorities and taking into account the disparate impact COVID-19 has had on disadvantaged communities.
2. The distribution of vaccine to employee groups varies from county to county based on prioritization by the individual county's health department. For Contra Costa County staff, our first doses (Phase 1A) were administered to our health care workers who fit into the definition of high-risk exposure to COVID on the job, detention/custody employees and inmates/juveniles, police/fire, maintenance employees working within our detention/custody facilities, and limited library employees for the same reasons. These include employees in clinical and non-clinical roles such as environmental services, patient transport, etc. Vaccinations are on-going.
3. The second group to be eligible to receive vaccines are individuals aged 65 and over who live in Contra Costa County. Employees who are County residents aged 65 and over may now request an appointment to receive a vaccination through their healthcare provider, by self-certifying on Health Services' website at: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/distribution-phases>, or via the State myturn.ca.gov website. Employees who live in another county who are 65 years and older must obtain their vaccination from their County of residence.
4. Our County opened eligibility to all Phase 1B eligible essential workers **as of today**, including grocery workers, food and agriculture, educators, childcare providers, and emergency services workers. Essential workers who are eligible can now sign up to receive vaccine at the federal site at the Oakland Coliseum through the State scheduling system: myturn.ca.gov or by calling 1-833-422-4255. The federal site receives a separate allocation of vaccine and therefore we wanted our employees who are essential workers to have access to get vaccinated wherever vaccine is available as soon as they can. Eligibility for signing up for appointments for this site must match our county eligibility.

5. Essential workers in Phases 1A and 1B may now sign up to get on the Contra Costa Health Services vaccine waiting list for an appointment. Although there is still a waiting list of those who are 65 years and older, opening up the waiting list to essential workers will allow collection of names and contact information of essential workers requesting vaccination and, when there are vaccine appointments to give out, we will prioritize essential workers from low Healthy Places Index (HPI) communities. This week Contra Costa's vaccine allocation from the state was reduced, so most of the vaccine will go toward second doses. When there is more vaccine available to allow for scheduling of first dose appointments, we will continue to prioritize those 65 years and older and essential workers.
6. Remember that supplies will increase over time; however, current available doses continue to be insufficient to meet demand. We expect it may be **several more months** before vaccine is available to all of our essential public-facing County staff. We appreciate the advocacy of Department Heads and **will notify you**, our employees, and our labor partners as soon as possible regarding eligibility and specific logistics. If in doubt, please don't hesitate to ask [lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us].
7. Due to the limited doses, and our desire to keep our employees safe, it is important that we encourage our employees as they become eligible to use the State/Federal vaccination sites through myturn.ca.gov and their own healthcare providers should vaccine be available. We will continue to work with providers to expand allocations to County Essential Workers.
8. Vaccination is voluntary, highly recommended, and free. Educational materials are available to inform staff decisions regarding vaccination.
9. It is important to note that we will continue to mandate all physical distancing, face covering, and hand washing precautions into the foreseeable future. These requirements will include vaccinated staff.
10. Together we can end the pandemic. Learn more about Contra Costa's campaign to equitably distribute a safe and effective vaccine at: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine>.

Thank you for all you do, and for continuing to work with us to support our employees and our community through these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Monica Nino
County Administrator

c: County Labor Partners