**COVID-19 VACCINES**
Frequently Asked Questions

Where are the vaccination locations throughout Sacramento County?
- Current locations that are vaccinating eligible individuals, include Health Care Providers such as clinics and hospitals, Safeway Pharmacies, CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, Cal Expo, Cal North State, Sacramento State, McClellan Park and other various smaller sites.

What medical conditions are considered to be high risk?
- As of March 15, vaccination is available to those with certain health conditions, disabilities, illness, living spaces, or work environments that put them at higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness.
- Individuals with these conditions are strongly encouraged to seek vaccination with a primary health care provider or system, or in an alternate clinical setting. Check first with your usual health care provider.
- At that time, healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals aged 16-64 who are **deemed to be at the very highest risk** to get very sick from COVID-19 because they have the following severe health conditions:
  - Cancer with weakened immune system
  - Chronic kidney disease (stage 4 or above)
  - Chronic pulmonary disease (oxygen dependent)
  - Down syndrome
  - Solid organ transplant with weakened immune system
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Heart conditions (i.e., heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies [not hypertension])
  - Severe obesity (body mass index at or more than 40 kg/m2)
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Must you have an appointment in advance to obtain the vaccination or can you walk in?
- Yes all locations require you to have a scheduled appointment.
- Those who are eligible can access the online appointment schedule at [https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/Vaccine-Registration-for-Eligible-Individuals-in-Sacramento-County.aspx](https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/Vaccine-Registration-for-Eligible-Individuals-in-Sacramento-County.aspx)
- You can email [COVID19Vaccine@saccounty.net](mailto:COVID19Vaccine@saccounty.net) with any questions.
- Some Health Systems such as Kaiser and Sutter may be taking phone appointments.

Are there target dates when we will move into the next vaccination Tier?
- Beginning April 1, all individuals 50 years and older will be eligible.
- Beginning April 15, all individuals 16 years and older will be eligible.
- Due to the limited supply of vaccine, it will continue to take time for all eligible individuals to receive their vaccine. We ask for patience as we continue to vaccinate the community.
• We continue to vaccinate persons aged 16-64 with high risk medical conditions, health care, law enforcement, emergency services, education & child care, food/agricultural workers, public transportation and the 65+ population.

• If you have questions regarding your eligibility, please email COVID19Vaccine@saccounty.net or visit https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAllocationGuidelines.aspx

• **Due to limited vaccine allocation, SCPH can only update appointments on a weekly basis.** We appreciate your patience in this matter and will continue to share appointment links for the upcoming weeks.

I’m over 65, where do I get a vaccine?

• People over the age of 65 should continue to contact their health care providers to see if vaccine is available through them.

• We post available appointments on the webpage link below. There are over 200,000 people in the 65+ population. So it could take weeks for someone who is 65+ to find an available appointment slot. Continue to check with your doctor as well, they may make it available to you.

• Appointment links will be at the bottom the webpage. There may be nothing available at this time but you can continue to check back for availability. You must live or work in Sacramento County.

• Sacramento County COVID-19 Vaccine Website: https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/Vaccine-Registration-for-Eligible-Individuals-in-Sacramento-County.aspx

• Please note that appointments are first come, first served; walk-ins are not accepted; and you must show your ID. Appointment availability will be updated weekly. These appointments are free of charge.

• You must schedule online for an appointment. If you have difficulty making an appointment online we urge you to reach out to family or friends for assistance with online scheduling.

• Beginning Friday, March 19, if someone you know doesn’t have access to a computer or internet and needs assistance in making an appointment, they can call 916-529-4519.

I’m an essential worker, when do I get a vaccine?

• You can visit the California’s vaccination plan at https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/#California's-vaccination-plan to find out what Phase you are in as an essential worker.

• Phase 1B includes Tier 1
  o Education and childcare
  o Emergency services- This now includes employees in the utility sector (SMUD, sanitation, etc.)
  o Food and agriculture
  o Individuals who reside or work in high risk congregate residential setting, such as incarceration/detention facility, homeless shelter, or behavioral health facility; also includes those experiencing homelessness.
  o Public transit workers, including airport and commercial airline workers (not private airplanes)

• **Sacramento County is vaccinating Phase 1A (all tiers); Phase 1B (Tier 1/congregate settings).**

• If you are a Veteran, the VA Northern California Health Care System (VANCHCS) is now offering COVID-19 vaccines to all enrolled Veterans, regardless of age, and their registered caregivers. COVID-19 vaccinations are available by appointment only at any of our vaccine clinics in Mather, Martinez, Auburn, Chico, Fairfield, Mare Island, McClellan, Oakland, Redding, Yreka and Yuba City. Enrolled Veterans and registered caregivers can request an appointment by:
  o Sending a Secure Message in My HealtheVet to COVID VACCINE SCHEDULING – NCHCS
  o Calling 1-800-382-8387 and selecting option 8; from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., excluding federal holidays, Monday through Friday.
My doctor referred me to get the vaccination can I get it right away?
- The state has also released availability for 65+ residents to request vaccines. There are roughly 200,000 people over the age of 65 in Sacramento County, and the vaccine supply is still extremely limited. At this time our appointment availability may be low and it may be challenging for you to get into an open appointment slot. Sacramento County Public Health continues to urge patience as we work with our federal and state partners to expand capacity and supply in the weeks ahead.
- You can check with your healthcare provider to see if they have vaccine, or email covid19vaccine@saccounty.net to get further information.

What should I bring with me to the vaccine appointment?
- Any form of identification with a name and a birthday.
- Work ID or other form of employment verification if you qualify due to your job classification.
- U.S. Citizenship or legal residency is not required.

How do I schedule my second dose appointment?
- Depending on the site participants receive their first vaccine, appointments for second doses will be scheduled during their first appointment or a registration link will be emailed to the participant approximately one week prior to needing their second dose.

In the two-dose series for the vaccines, can I get one from one manufacturer and the second dose from a different manufacturer (Pfizer and Moderna)?
- No, you must get both vaccine doses from same manufacturer to get full protection from the vaccines.

If someone already had COVID-19, should they still get the vaccine?
- Once you have cleared your 10 day isolation period you can receive the vaccine. However, it is recommended that you hold off from receiving the vaccine and receive it after the 90 days have elapsed because the vaccine is still limited in supply and we want to be able to offer it to others who do not have temporary immunity.

Do I still need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I received two doses of the vaccine?
- Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic. These tools include: covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others.

I would like to volunteer to help in vaccination efforts, where do I sign up?
- At this time, the best way to become a volunteer is to register with the Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps. We are utilizing volunteers at many of our vaccination sites.
- https://sacoes.saccounty.net/SacramentoMedicalReserveCorps/Pages/default.aspx