



Ned Lamont
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Office of the Commissioner



Angel Quiros
Commissioner Designate

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Department of Correction Employees
FROM: Angel Quiros, Commissioner Designate
DATE: January 27, 2021
SUBJECT: Covid-19 Vaccinations

Quiros 1/27/21

First off, I just want to thank you for everything you continue to do to keep your coworkers and the inmate population safe and healthy.

As many of you are no doubt aware, the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine has begun. As part of the State's rollout Phase 1A, the Agency's Health Services staff members began getting vaccinated on January 8, 2021.

Our correctional staff and the inmate population are part of Phase 1B of the vaccination rollout, with vaccinations for facility staff beginning sometime during early February. You are among the first to receive the vaccine because of your essential role in fighting this pandemic. I want to thank Governor Ned Lamont for placing all congregate facilities, including correctional facilities into Phase 1B. This enabled our agency to immediately start planning for the complex process of vaccinating both staff and offenders during Phase 1B, parallel with other eligible residents.

In order to get a better sense of how many doses of the vaccine the Agency will need, you will be contacted by a representative from your respective facility asking you if you are planning on getting vaccinated.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to prevent getting sick with COVID-19 virus. Let me assure you that I plan on getting vaccinated when it is my turn to do so.

Getting vaccinated now will help protect you and your families from COVID-19.

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We understand that there are many questions surrounding the vaccine. Although I may not have all the answers, one thing we know for certain is that the COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all other vaccines.

In an effort to better inform everyone about questions surrounding the vaccine and the vaccination process, we have created a dedicated webpage on the Department's website, located at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Common-Elements/Common-Elements/COVID19-Vaccine-Information-for-DOC-Staff>

Additional information about the Covid-19 vaccine can be found on our Agency's private group Facebook page, searchable by *Connecticut Department of Correction Employee Wellness*.

After receiving the vaccine, you may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. The most common side effects are pain at the injection site, fever, and chills. These side effects tend to be mild to moderate and go away on their own within 1–2 days.

After being vaccinated, everyone in the facility should continue to follow all the current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least six feet away from others, avoiding crowds, and washing hands often.

I, along with the rest of the Executive Team, want you to feel confident in your decision to get vaccinated. By getting vaccinated, you can serve as a role model, positively influencing vaccination decisions of others.

Getting back to normal starts with getting vaccinated. Bottom line, it's the right thing to do.

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep each other and the inmate population safe and healthy.