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Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:28 PM

To:

Subject: Update on the roll-out of Phase 1b and clarification on eligibility

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear COVID Vaccine Providers and Local Health Directors,

This email is to update you about the roll-out of Phase 1b and clarify certain questions regarding eligibility.

Phase 1b roll out:

Today, Governor Lamont directed the Department of Public Health to roll-out Phase 1b in the following manner:

- **Scheduling now:** Individuals 75-years-of-age and over;
- **Scheduling next (likely early February):** Individuals 65-years-of-age and over;
- **Scheduling information coming soon (likely early March):** Frontline essential workers and individuals underlying medical condition with increased risk for severe illness.

The staff & residents of congregate settings will occur in parallel to this roll-out throughout Phase 1b. Further information about the definitions of "Frontline Essential Workers" and qualifying list of underlying medical conditions will be available in early February.

More information and instruction about when scheduling for individuals 65-years and over can begin will be forthcoming. Until that time, all outreach, scheduling, and efforts should continue to focus on individuals over the age of 75.

Continued focus on 75+

There are many individuals 75 years and older who have not yet scheduled vaccine appointments, and we ask that you work to make your vaccine clinics accessible for this group as quickly as your vaccine allocation and supply allows. This includes conducting proactive outreach to these individuals and helping them address technical barriers to use of VAMS and other portal-based scheduling systems. Enabling access through helplines and access lines is actively encouraged and we will support allocation to systems and provides that are making it easy for individuals with limited technology access to schedule a clinic.

Out of phase vaccine administration

We know that several employers, including towns and school districts, got an early jump on access to vaccine on Phase 1b based on prior assumptions about Phase 1b eligibility and miscommunication. This is regrettable, but we know that mistakes are made when we are collectively working to move quickly. We are asking that all individuals who are not Phase 1a-eligible (healthcare personnel, medical first responders, and LTCF staff & residents) or 75-years or older cancel any appointments they have on Friday or later. We have communicated this message to our employer coordinators for implementation and to convey to their members.

State-based eligibility

Connecticut vaccine providers should target their allocation to Connecticut residents and workforce.

This means:

- Individuals are eligible to receive vaccine in the State of Connecticut if they meet the State's current phase of eligibility AND they either live or work in the State of Connecticut.
- Individuals whose primary medical provider is located in the State of Connecticut but do not live or work in an eligible sector in CT should not be vaccinated in CT. Such individuals should receive vaccine from their State of residence when they are eligible in their home state.

Summary of COVID-19 Staffing Resources

Attached is a summary of COVID-19 Staffing Resources and systems in place to meet the growing demands placed on the state's public health system.

CT DPH Immunization Program

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