

Vaccine Access for Congregate Settings, Vulnerable Communities and Homebound Residents

Information for Local Health Departments and Providers

The State of Connecticut continues to prioritize congregate settings and other vulnerable communities for vaccine access. The definitions and policies below have been developed to help local health departments and healthcare providers understand how the state is supporting equity and access for these communities.

Type of Setting	Definition	Policy & Guidance
Congregate settings	<p>Residential facilities that provide supportive or supervisory services to their residents and where social distancing is not possible due to shared bedrooms, shared kitchens or shared bathrooms.</p> <p>These facilities are either licensed by or otherwise formally affiliated with the State of Connecticut and are administered by a private non-profit or other formal entity.</p> <p><i>Detailed eligibility information below.</i></p>	<p>All residents and staff of these settings are currently eligible to receive vaccine.</p> <p>Local health departments or healthcare providers with existing relationships are encouraged to work with these settings to arrange for either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in community clinics; or• On-site vaccine clinics at the congregate setting. <p><i>More information below about reporting administrations in these sites and arranging a vaccinator if one does not currently exist.</i></p>
Supported living for older adults and individuals with disabilities	<p>Non-licensed, generally apartment-style housing in which older adults and individuals with disabilities live in close proximity and generally receive supportive services in their home.</p> <p><i>Not eligible under congregate setting definition.</i></p>	<p>These sites are not considered “congregate” and therefore eligibility is based on the broader community eligibility (e.g., only 75+ at this time).</p> <p>Local health departments and providers can conduct on-site clinics for eligible individuals at these sites to ease access.</p>
Homebound individuals	<p>Individuals who cannot leave the home due to contraindication or mobility restrictions.</p> <p><i>Not considered a congregate setting.</i></p>	<p>More information about vaccine access for homebound individuals will be coming soon.</p> <p>Providers may administer vaccine to homebound individuals in line with the broader community eligibility (e.g., 75+ as of January 22, 2021).</p>

Further detail and information about congregate settings

Eligibility

Residential facilities that provide supportive or supervisory services to their residents and where social distancing is not possible due to shared bedrooms, shared kitchens or shared bathrooms.

These facilities are either licensed by or otherwise formally affiliated with the State of Connecticut and are administered by a private non-profit or other formal entity.

For purposes of Phase 1b eligibility, congregate settings do not include supported apartments, foster or family settings, college dormitories, or boarding schools. Please see a list of eligible setting types below.

Setting types and proposed prioritization

All congregate sites are currently eligible. Given scarce supply, we encourage providers and local health departments to prioritize based on the following schema:

Wave 1: Older adults, high-risk medical conditions

- Remaining residential care homes (RCHs) and assisted living facilities (ALFs)
- Remaining DDS community living arrangements and continuous residential supports (group homes)
- DOH state congregate facilities
- DOC facilities

Wave 2: Facilities with significant outbreak history

- DMHAS inpatient and residential facilities
- Sober houses
- Migrant farm worker housing
- DCF inpatient and residential facilities (16+ years)

Wave 3: Remaining congregate sites

- Shelters (housing, domestic violence)
- Halfway houses and reentry programs

How to report vaccinations at congregate sites

Please report to us on which congregate settings you are planning to cover (even if clinics have not yet been scheduled). **Use the attached template and submit to DPH.communitysupport@ct.gov weekly by Monday at noon.** We will use and share this information to coordinate and avoid duplication of effort.

How to request a vaccine clinic at a congregate site

If a congregate facility that you know of, but cannot assist, needs to request state assistance in accessing vaccines, please have them fill out the information in [THIS FORM](#). This information will be used to match them with a vaccinator, as appropriate.