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To:

Subject: Update about Phase 1b Vaccine Roll-out for Providers and Local Health Departments

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear COVID Vaccine Providers and Local Health Departments,

Today, the State of Connecticut announced more information about its transition to Phase 1b. This information can be found on ct.gov/covidvaccine.

Overview of Phase 1b

Starting Monday (Jan 14), we are focused on maximizing vaccine administration for those individuals 75 years and older – this is our first priority.

We ask that all providers who are doing direct scheduling of clinics engage in outreach and vaccination to individuals 75 years-of-age and older. For hospitals and clinics who can directly schedule patients, please conduct outreach. For local health departments, please consider ways to offer vaccine to seniors in your community.

Eventually, the State will also move ahead to include:

- Residents and staff at congregate settings;
- Frontline essential workers;
- Individuals 65-74 years of age;
- Individuals 16-64 with certain underlying medical conditions that put them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.

Recognizing that some of you have already offered appointments to frontline essential workers, we are not requesting that you cancel. We are requesting that you focus any appointments yet to be scheduled on those 75 and older. We are also going to be limiting entry of frontline essential worker employers into VAMS in order to focus on scheduling for 75+.

Focus on 75+

There are four primary ways individuals 75 and older can receive vaccine:

1. **Direct outreach from their provider** – if their provider is a vaccine administrator.
2. **Registration through VAMS** if they have email addresses (available at ct.gov/covidvaccine).
3. **Schedule through our Vaccine Access Assistance Line and Appointments-Plus platform.** For providers who are interested in participating, please complete [this form](#).
4. **Schedule directly with a provider:** Some providers throughout the state are offering direct scheduling

Working with you, we want to see every appointment filled and every dose possible administered. Therefore, if you are unable to fill available appointment slots or have previously scheduled clinics for them, please move to offering appointments to a limited number of frontline essential workers:

Details on [frontline essential worker category](#):

1. **Face exposure to COVID because work-related duties must be performed on-site, in proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers; AND,**
2. **Work in one of the sectors identified below**

Sector list:

- **Healthcare personnel**
- **First responders**
- **Agricultural workers, including farmworkers**
- **Food service and restaurants**
- **U.S. Postal Service workers**
- **Manufacturing workers**
- **Grocery store & pharmacy workers**
- **Public transit workers**
- **Food banks and meal delivery services for the elderly**
- **Education and child-care workers**
- **Solid waste and wastewater workers**
- **Inspectors working on site in the above locations**
- **Frontline public and social services**

Technology and scheduling

As was communicated yesterday, we are rolling out a cloud-based scheduling platform that can be used across provider organizations. This platform, supported by Appointments Plus, can enable our vaccine access line to schedule patients at your clinics (you can also schedule patients into these slots yourself). Providers who are interested should complete the following form: <https://uwc.211ct.org/vax/>.

In addition, over the next week, we will have more information about transitioning away from VAMS during Phase 1b. For now, we are using and supporting VAMS as an access solution for both 75+ and for frontline essential workers, so please continue to post your appointments in VAMS.

Every dose administered must be recorded – allocations will continue to be based on throughput and doses used.

CT DPH Immunization Program

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