



Health Alert



City of Chicago
Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor

www.chicagohan.org

Chicago Department of Public Health
Allison Arwady MD MPH, Commissioner

CDPH message to Chicago Hospitals and Outpatient Clinics about increasing capacity to vaccinate health care personnel in 1a vaccine priority

January 8, 2021

Summary and Action Items

- Chicago continues to be in phase 1a of COVID-19 vaccination, which includes vaccination of healthcare personnel (HCP) and residents of long-term care facilities.
- Hospitals have been vaccinating their affiliated HCP for several weeks and should continue to do so. FQHCs and outpatient clinics are also beginning to receive vaccine to vaccinate HCP.
- Many of Chicago's HCP that meet criteria for 1a vaccination are not employees of hospitals or large healthcare systems.
- **Vaccine may be provided to anyone in 1a priority, e.g. healthcare facility patients who are HCP and HCP employed in neighboring healthcare settings. No permission is needed from CDPH for a hospital or healthcare system to vaccinate anyone in 1a priority, so long as these individuals in 1a priority live or work in Chicago.**
- If your facility needs additional vaccine supply to vaccinate persons in 1a priority, CDPH currently has a limited supply of vaccine available for this purpose. Please email covid19vaccine@cityofchicago.org to request additional vaccine supply.
- It is not too late to sign-up to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider (ultra-cold storage capacity is not necessary). For sign-up instructions, see <https://www.chicagohan.org/covidvax>

Background:

- On December 1, ACIP recommended that 1) health care personnel and 2) residents of long-term care facilities be offered COVID-19 vaccination during Phase 1a of the vaccination program.

Healthcare personnel are paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- licensed healthcare professionals like nurses, doctors, pharmacists, and dentists
- staff such as medical assistants, receptionists, mortuary services, laboratory technicians, dietary, laundry, and environmental services staff.
- consultants, per diem, and contractors who are not directly employed by the facility
- unpaid workers such as health professional students, trainees, volunteers, and essential caregivers

- doulas and community health workers¹
- personnel working in various venues like EMS, paramedics, funeral staff, and autopsy workers
- health professional students, trainees, volunteers, and essential caregivers who are unpaid
- **other paid or unpaid people who work in a healthcare setting, who may have direct or indirect contact with infectious persons or materials, and who cannot work from home**

For COVID-19 vaccination, the following are considered healthcare settings:

- Acute, pediatric, and behavioral health hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers
- Health facilities like psychiatric facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and rehab treatment facilities
- Clinic-based settings like urgent care clinics, dialysis centers, and family planning sites
- Occupational-based healthcare settings like health clinics within workplaces, shelters, jails, colleges and universities, and K-12 schools
- Home-based settings like hospice, home health care, and visiting nurse services
- Office-based healthcare settings like physician and dental offices
- Harm reduction centers
- Retail, independent, and institutional pharmacies
- Long-term care settings like nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, and others that provide medical care to persons who are unable to live independently. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Skilled nursing facilities
 - Veteran's homes
 - Assisted living facilities
 - Group homes like residential care homes and intellectual and developmental disabilities group homes
 - Institutional settings like psychiatric hospitals, correctional institutions, county jails, and juvenile detention facilities
 - Other vulnerable, congregate, long-term settings where health care is provided
- Other settings where healthcare is provided

Refer to www.chicagohan.org/covidvax for additional information and instructions as guidance and tiers are updated over time.

¹ A community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who serves as a liaison between healthcare settings and the community to facilitate access to services and to improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.