



# COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout: State Information & Resources

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## About This Resource

On January 14, 2021 ADvancing States sent out a call for information about how states are rolling out the COVID-19 vaccine to people receiving home and community-based services and/or Older Americans Act services. Information about logistics plans, schedules, partnerships, and communications strategies were all welcomed. This resource reflects the information states sent in response to the call and will be periodically updated as we receive more information. If you would like to update your state or submit new information, please contact [ayoung@advancingstates.org](mailto:ayoung@advancingstates.org). There are also several places throughout the document where states have submitted supplementary materials. The same contact can be used to request more information on these state-specific resources.

# COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Information by State

## Alaska

The entirety of the HCBS workforce (including those working in homes or in any residential or community setting) was included in Tier 1 and Tier 2 of Phase 1a. The entirety of the HCBS congregate setting recipients were also included in these first two tiers. Alaska is now in Phase 1b, which is opened to anyone 65 or above, which will include some of the HCBS recipients. The remaining of the HCBS recipients not over 65 and not in a residential congregate setting will be covered in Tier 3 or Tier 4 of Phase 1b.

Alaska's vaccine rollout plan can be found [here](#). The state is sharing vaccine information with stakeholder partners for distribution to memberships, etc. as it becomes available.

## Arizona

In Arizona, there are no confirmed rollout plans for HCBS clients to be vaccinated. AAA's are providing information to their clients on the vaccines and encouraging them to be vaccinated.

AAA Region One (Maricopa County) is coordinating with Banner and Dignity Hospitals to potentially set up vaccination sites in senior center parking as well as in-home vaccines for homebound individuals.

PCOA (Region 2) and NACOG (Region 3) have attempted to work with their County Health Departments to assist with dispersing vaccines. To date, those health departments have not been responsive. The AAAs continue to advocate, with their county-based health departments, to establish a plan to vaccinate home-bound clients.

NACOG has contacted NAU to see if they can work with the nursing program to vaccinate home-bound individuals. Unaware of any other plans from the remaining AAAs.

## Georgia

Georgia shared their state's vaccination plan for person's under guardianship as well as a letter sent to all facilities where persons under Georgia's guardianship reside. If you would like to see the letter, please contact ADvancing States.

## California

California set up two COVID-19 Vaccine webpages, a [central state website](#) and a [California Department of Public Health webpage](#) for more specific information about the vaccine. The webpages allow the public to get the latest information about the COVID vaccine allocation guidelines, FAQs about vaccine allocation, distribution and guidelines.

California's State COVID Hotline answers general questions from the public about the vaccine and routes them to 211 call centers to answer questions about vaccine distribution and registration in their local health jurisdictions.

The vaccine is being distributed and administered through the 61 local health departments (LHDs) and their enrolled providers in California. Each local health jurisdiction is responsible for providing outreach, messaging, timing of receiving the vaccine (with state allocation guidelines) and registering and making appointments for individuals to receive the vaccine. The State is continuing to support and work closely with the LHDs on consistent messaging and IT tools for locals to use for eligibility and registration. HCBS providers are continuing to talk and frequently check the websites of their LHDs on the timing and distribution of the vaccine to older adults in their area so they can assist their participants with the registration and appointment process. The California Department of Aging has met with HCBS programs that the department oversees- CBAS and MSSP- and have been answering questions and elevating their concerns to the CA State Department of Health. California adopted the federal guideline to prioritize older adults 65+ in Phase 1a to receive the vaccine, so this population is now at a higher priority level in California.

## Florida

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis made the senior population a top priority for vaccine distribution. The state worked across sectors to develop innovative and unique sites to increase access statewide for those 65 and older. In addition to the State Department of Health and

their local county health departments, Florida is partnering with Publix Supermarkets to increase the number of vaccine distribution sites and vaccinations. The first Publix stores to serve as COVID-19 vaccination sites were in Hernando, Marion, and Citrus Counties with the latest addition of Publix vaccination sites in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Collier, St. Johns, and Bay Counties. Florida's partnership with Publix is allowing an additional 100 to 125 shots per day at each store in one of the 105 select locations. All vaccinations at the selected Publix locations require an appointment. Qualified individuals may make an appointment by visiting [www.publix.com/covidvaccine](http://www.publix.com/covidvaccine).

Innovative pilot programs, such as with Publix as well as with places of worship, will ensure the vaccine is as accessible as possible and incentivize swift deployment by partners on the ground. Florida is also working closely with places of worship, and current COVID-19 testing sites, to transform them into more accessible sites for vaccinations.

Additional resources to locate vaccines for eligible individuals include: [hospitals](#), [county health departments](#), primary care physician's offices, and the 11 local [Area Agencies for Aging](#). Within the Aging Network, DOEA has communicated to the 11 AAAs the ability to use transportation funding to assist with transferring older adults to and from vaccine shot appointments.

## Hawaii

The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) has developed a Draft COVID-19 Vaccination Plan<sup>1</sup> which will be updated when needed as assumptions and conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic in Hawaii changes. Jon Shear, CEO from ReadyZoneHQ, is the designated DOH consultant to coordinate the implementation of Hawaii's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan to meet the needs of Hawaii's diverse, growing, and vulnerable population of older adults.

National vaccine authorities are currently informing the State of Hawaii how much vaccine is available to order for one week with the assumption that the number of doses available each week will start to increase beginning in February 2021. The updated phases and prioritization of population groups that will be able receive the COVID-19 vaccinations are as follows:

- a) Phase 1a - Health care personnel and long-term care facility residents.
- b) Phase 1b - Frontline essential workers & Adults Aged 75 and Older. (current phase)

c) Phase 1c - Adults aged 65-74 years old, persons aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not included in Phase 1b.

d) Phase 2- all other persons aged 16+ who were not included in previous priority groups.

#### Issues/Recommendations relating to COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out Plan to Hawaii's Older Adults

1) DOH discussed the use of the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) to register vaccine recipients, which helps speed up the entire process for vaccine recipients at the PODs/clinics. However, it could be challenging for some older adults to access on-line registration without assistance.

2) Hawaii's DOH Communications Office has a subscriber list with more than 60,000 individuals signed up. This feature could be utilized to increase communications with Hawaii's older adults. It was also suggested that a list serve be developed for individuals /organizations in the Aging network so that all communications can be sent through that channel.

3) More independent physicians should be enrolled as COVID-19 vaccination providers to increase the capacity to reach the 75+ population. One challenge, however, the minimum ordering requirements are 100 doses for Moderna and 975 for Pfizer.

4) Facilitate outreach and education, through the Aging Network of partners and service providers, to older adults so that they can make informed decisions regarding vaccinations.

5) Coordinate with the Vaccine Communications Working Group to develop messaging and disseminate information.

6) Develop/provide guidance and recommendations to facilitate vaccination planning and distribution for adults ages 75 and older in Phase 1b (Group 1-able bodied older adults who can be vaccinated at pods and Group 2- older adults who are frail and not able to travel to pods).

7) Vaccine recipients should be given a hard copy vaccination record card and should be scheduled for their second dose to be received 28 days later as recommended.

The State Unit on Aging in Hawaii (DOH/Executive Office on Aging), AARP, and the Area Agency on Aging for the City and County of Honolulu have volunteered to chair the 75+ vaccination

workgroup. (Contact ADvancing States to see Attachments A: Preliminary Recommendations and Attachment B: Overview of the 75+ Workgroups)

### Questions Posed:

Q.: Are Community Care Family Foster Homes (CCFFHs) and Adult Residential Care Homes (ARCHs) included in the LTCF, as these patients have not started receiving their vaccines yet?

A.: CCFFHs and ARCHs will hopefully start this week; that is a separate program from the federal pharmacy program associated with CVS and Walgreens.

Q.: Are any providers charging an administrative fee?

A.: Some providers are charging an administrative fee to the insurance providers of vaccine recipients. No individual should be charged for the vaccine, regardless of their insurance status.

Q.: What is being communicated about vaccine fraud?

A.: The Vaccine Distribution Security Working Group and the Vaccine Communications Working Group are coordinating on efforts to address vaccine fraud.

## **Kansas**

[This website](#) contains all of the Kansas information regarding vaccination roll outs. It is the best source of information at this time.

## **Massachusetts**

Vaccine Roll-Out Plans for Massachusetts' HCBS can be found in the links below:

[Massachusetts COVID19 Vaccine General Information](#)

[Massachusetts COVID19 Vaccine Timeline](#)

[Massachusetts Long Term Care Facility Guidance](#)

[Massachusetts Senior Affordable Housing Guidance](#)



Massachusetts also shared their Home Based Workforce Guidance – Please contact ADvancing States for more information.

## Michigan

[Click here](#) to view Michigan’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. For a wide array of Michigan’s communication materials regarding the vaccine rollout, click [here](#). Vaccination rollout phases and a preliminary vaccination timeline can be viewed at this [link](#). For Michigan’s interactive COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard click [here](#).

## Missouri

For Missouri’s COVID-19 vaccine website [click here](#). An interactive map of Missouri COVID-19 Vaccine Providers can be accessed [here](#). The state has been working with vaccinators, aging and disability stakeholders, with other Phase 1A unaffiliated healthcare providers, and internally to develop a vaccination plan in a logistical way.

In Missouri, Phase 1A does include home care workers. HCBS participants are in 1B if they have a qualifying high-risk condition or are over the age of 65. The biggest challenge for Missouri right now is not having enough vaccines for Phase 1A.

MO has plans in place with HCBS nurses to deliver the vaccine to the homebound if needed. They will bill a nurse visit for this.

Missouri also has an Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) funded position who is a Special COVID advisor for persons with a disability. This is a position that ASTHO placed in 12 states and territories. This staff person is leading an Equitable Vaccine Distribution Committee and connecting with all disability and older adult partners to obtain specific needs and make plans to meet those needs (communication, logistical, accessibility of sites, etc.)

A statewide registration site is being built for individuals and for employers / groups that want to coordinate on site vaccination clinics. This will be up and running in February.

Missouri shared several related documents, including expanded definitions for Phase 1A and information for vaccinators. Please contact ADvancing States for more information.

## New Hampshire

General NH Vaccination Resources and Guidance can be found [here](#).

In order to get greater pick up for the developmental disability community, staff and individuals served, the state hosted a Town Hall on Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the 10 area agencies that provide services to people with DD and ABD. The town hall was taped and will be available so that the 10 area agencies can utilize with staff and share via social media, etc.

The state also established a vaccine alliance that is managed through the NH Medical Association. NH shared a flyer to provide an idea of the scope and purpose of the alliance. Please contact ADvancing States for more information.

The state is doing specific outreach to populations that are highly employed as DSPs, LNAs, etc. The Nepalese population, as an example, represents a significant portion of the DSP, homecare workers in three geographies in NH. Targeted efforts to work with Nepalese community leadership, translation of vaccine information, etc. are being undertaken to ensure that this population is fully informed.

NH also shared a COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan and infographic. Please contact ADvancing States for more information.

## New Jersey

The NJ Division on Aging Services (DoAS) is working with the state Department of Health (lead agency on vaccinations) and the Aging network to provide information to the senior population regarding the vaccine. NJ is currently in phase 1- A. On Jan. 13 the Governor announced the vaccine will now be available to individuals aged 65+ and younger individuals who meet specific criteria (contact ADvancing States for more information).

DoAS also is in the midst of creating a COVID-19 vaccination call center to assist seniors with information on and registration for the vaccination.

County-based AAAs are working in cooperation with their local health departments and are utilizing county employees and volunteers to outreach to seniors in their communities. As one example, Gloucester County has been designated as one of the six Mega Vaccination Sites in NJ. They are currently in the pilot stage at Rowan College of South Jersey. The County Department

of Health and Human Services is the lead agency with Human, Senior and Disability Services assisting with the coordination. Working in collaboration with the NJ Department of Health, they have received a limited amount of vaccines and are vaccinating individuals who meet the Phase 1A criteria. County Transportation is working on reaching seniors in remote areas and with physical limitation and the AAA is coordinating with County Transportation to reach seniors in need and individuals with disabilities.

## Ohio

Per the Ohio Department of Aging:

Ohio is imminently close to completing the administration of the first round of COVID-19 vaccines in skilled nursing facilities and has begun with assisted living facilities. Ohio partnered with four pharmacies through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership in distribution of the vaccine to skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities as a part of Phase 1A.

- WEEK OF JANUARY 18: Vaccine providers will begin receiving their first allotment of vaccines for those ages 80 and older. Vaccines will be delivered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Each provider will begin administering vaccines the day after they receive their shipment. All vaccines must be distributed within seven days.
- WEEK OF JANUARY 25: Vaccinations are anticipated to begin for those ages 75 and up following the same process outlined above. Vaccinations will also be available to those with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset medical disorders. Additional information on how these individuals can choose to receive their vaccines is forthcoming.
- WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1: Vaccinations are anticipated to begin for those ages 70 and up following the same process outlined above.
- WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8: Vaccinations are anticipated to begin for those ages 65 and up following the same process outlined above.
- Senior citizens with questions on the vaccination process are urged to contact the Area Agencies on Aging at [www.aging.ohio.gov](http://www.aging.ohio.gov) or by calling 1-866-243-5678.

- The Ohio Department of Health has launched a tool on [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) to assist residents looking for a provider that has been allotted vaccines. The tool will be searchable by zip code or county, but it will not be updated in real-time. It is critical that those eligible to receive a vaccine consult local resources to determine up-to-date vaccine availability. The Ohio Department of Health is in the process of developing a state vaccination scheduling system.

Ohio Department of Aging also submitted the following links:

[COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Older Adults](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine and Long-Term Care Facilities](#)

## Tennessee

The Tennessee vaccination plan was amended to account for HCBS populations at the end of December—specifically those age 18 and older incapable of living independently. Available [here](#).

The state I/DD agency is leading the coordination for I/DD programs. Many provider agencies have become vaccination sites in order to better ensure access for staff and persons supported.

TN is also utilizing MCOs and providers to gather and disseminate information.

## Texas

The Texas [Department of State Health Services](#) (DSHS) is the lead state agency for Texas' response to COVID-19, including COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

The Texas Commissioner of Health appointed an [Expert Vaccine Allocation Panel](#) to make recommendations on vaccine allocation decisions.

This panel identifies groups that should be vaccinated first with the goal of providing protection to vulnerable populations and critical state resources.

Currently, Texas is vaccinating individuals in [Phase 1A](#) and [Phase 1B](#):

- Phase 1A includes hospital-based healthcare workers and other frontline health care workers (including home health workers) in addition to nursing facility residents and staff.
- Phase 1B includes individuals ages 65 years and older as well as individuals with [certain medical conditions](#) that are associated with more severe illness resulting from COVID-19.
- Essential workers, parents, guardians, caregivers, and individuals who meet the Phase 1A and/or Phase 1B criteria are currently eligible for the vaccine.

Other groups will be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines in the coming months as more vaccines are made available.

The best source for COVID-19 vaccine information in Texas is the [DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Information website](#).

Individuals may visit the [Vaccine Provider Locations website](#), or the [Vaccination Hub Providers website](#) to find vaccine providers in their respective communities.

DSHS, in collaboration with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) have been working with partners to include Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) to distribute information regarding vaccine safety and efficacy as well as who is currently eligible and where they may be vaccinated.

## Utah

Utah's Vaccine Distribution Plan is posted [here](#).

At this time, HCBS populations in Utah are not necessarily separated out in the distribution plan. In the State's current distribution, individuals 70+ will be eligible to sign up for vaccinations with local health departments in the next few days. This will be followed by adults with compromising health conditions.

## Washington

The State Department of Health is responsible for vaccine distribution planning and it has taken some time to identify the open points of distribution that will be available to vaccinate individuals who are eligible but are not employees of the distribution site.

Home care workers are in Phase 1a, along with residents and workers of long-term care facilities. Clients receiving in-home services are in a later phase (based upon age and underlying chronic conditions).

## West Virginia

West Virginia is working on plans to get vaccines to homebound consumers, including transporting where possible and in-home vaccination. WV is currently vaccinating by age. The state started with the 80 and above population and has recently moved to 70 and above.

## Wisconsin

To administer the vaccine to the 1A group in Wisconsin, you must be an enrolled vaccinator. Generally, the large health systems become vaccinators and in some counties the local public health departments. The enrolled vaccinators then request supply and it is distributed. Health Care workers and direct care workers can receive the vaccine in WI. Workers affiliated with a health system are getting the vaccine but “unaffiliated” workers are having a harder time. If these workers are not affiliated with an enrolled vaccinator they need to go through Wisconsin’s county public health - and there are 72 counties. Many of the unaffiliated providers are HCBS providers such as personal care workers, supported home care etc. Wisconsin is working on more direct messaging to people.

Wisconsin also started facility vaccinations which are going through Walgreens and CVS. This group includes NH, assisted living and RCACs.

Another complicating factor is that once the vaccine is distributed to a county area, county public health may make a decision to vaccinate further down the list, such as community individuals, so as not to waste vaccine. When people hear these stories, then they wonder when they can get the vaccine.



# ADVANCING STATES

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