



COVID-19

Vaccine distribution phase update

FAQ

What are the state's goals in vaccine distribution?

From the onset, the state goal has been to approach the vaccine distribution process in a way that is equitable, saves the most lives and ends the public health crisis as soon as possible.

How many 70+ people have been vaccinated? How many are left?

Currently, about 190,995 Coloradans aged 70 or older have received a first vaccine dose. Our goal is to vaccinate 70% of Coloradans ages 70 and older by February 28 which totals 393,639 Coloradans. We're about 47% of the way to our goal. The total number of Coloradans 70 and over in the state is 562,000. This number will change every day, so please check the [vaccine dashboard](#) to find the latest vaccination information.

How many doses will Colorado receive each week?

We are estimating 452,000 total vaccines allocated to Colorado between January 25 and March 1st.

Why does the state say it's finished with Phase 1A? What about the 70+ people who haven't been able to get vaccinated?

Coloradans age 70 and older are in Phase 1B.1. Phase 1A includes frontline health care workers and residents and workers in long term care facilities. 90% of frontline health care workers have received their second dose. If a front line health care worker has not received a vaccine, they can still get one.

Will moving forward with people age 65-69 cause further delays with people age 70+?

Coloradans ages 70 and up are the state's current vaccination priority. Our goal continues to be to vaccinate at least 70% of Coloradans 70 and older by February 28th. Coloradans ages 65-69 are in Phase 1B.2 of the phased distribution plan, and they will start getting vaccinated on February 8th. The state has taken into consideration the doses of vaccines we expect over the coming weeks and set appropriate goals that align with the phasing. Colorado needs to have a

larger population than just the remaining 70 and older Coloradans to use all the vaccines we receive between Feb 8th and the end of the month.

Are providers supposed to prioritize 70+ people over 65+ people?

Yes, vaccinating Coloradans age 70 and up will save the most lives and they should continue to have priority. Providers should follow the state's phased distribution plan as closely as possible. On February 8, providers will be able to vaccinate anyone 65 and over, including those that are 70 and over who have not yet received a vaccine.

What's the science behind including 65+ people now?

While developing and fine-tuning the state's phased distribution plan, scientists and doctors have looked at the statistics that show who is most at risk of getting very sick or dying from COVID-19. People ages 65-69, while not at the same risk as those age 70 and older, are at an elevated risk compared to younger people, which is why Colorado is prioritizing them for vaccination. Also, on December 20, 2020, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices updated vaccine allocation recommendations and recommended that people 65 and older be moved up in the vaccination list.

Will adding more people to these early phases cause us to be short on second doses?

The state has taken into consideration the need for Coloradans to receive the second dose of the vaccine on time. We do not anticipate a shortage of second doses due to the phasing changes. If we get fewer vaccines than expected, we will shift resources to second doses. We are committed to following CDC guidance to administer a second dose.

How is the state going to ensure equity while changing the phases?

The state is working on multiple equity initiatives, including supporting community-based clinics in rural and low-income areas, supporting transportation initiatives to ensure access to vaccine clinics, promoting vaccine education and engagement with community-based organizations and businesses, and promoting media campaigns encouraging people to seek out vaccine facts from trusted sources.

Why is Colorado prioritizing pre-K-12 educators and staff?

Our education system is both an investment in our future and an immediate lifeline and critical resource in our communities, including for Coloradans who rely on having their children in school. In addition, the education system is one of the most important determinants for Coloradans' long-term health and welfare. It is for these reasons we believe it is critically important for the health of our children, communities, and state that we create the conditions for students to return to in-person learning in school. The COVID-19 vaccines are another

important tool we can use to ensure that children in Colorado can continue to attend school in person.

Why aren't higher education educators and staff prioritized?

At this time, it is critical that we focus on making in-person learning for children as safe as possible. Remote learning in pre-K-12 settings has the potential to hurt the participation of women in the workplace, and can also have negative effects on the mental and physical health of children. Because these risks are not as prominent for students in higher education, we have made pre-K-12 education a priority.

How will pre-K-12 educators and staff get vaccinated?

School districts, schools, and child care providers are working with healthcare partners, including hospitals and local public health agencies to schedule vaccinations. Employers will be in touch with more information about how to schedule your vaccine.

Will 70+ people get displaced by pre-K-12 teachers?

Coloradans ages 70 and up are the state's current vaccination priority. Pre-K-12 teachers and child care workers are in Phase 1B.2 of the phased distribution plan, and they will get their vaccines through their employer and will not utilize the same vaccine sign up system as people 65 and older.

Will the additional changes to the phasing cause things to be more confusing?

We know that the vaccine rollout has involved a lot of new information and a lot of changing information. This is a massive vaccine distribution unlike anything we've seen in our lifetime. It requires extraordinary logistical planning and collaboration between multiple state agencies, local public health agencies, community partners, and providers. Because vaccine supply is limited, we need to distribute vaccines in phases. Since Colorado began receiving its first vaccines, we have made it a priority to use this new tool to save lives and end the crisis caused by the pandemic as soon as possible. As we learn more about the best and most scientifically sound ways to accomplish these goals, aspects of the vaccine distribution plan will change. We will continue to communicate information about these changes as clearly as we can. We thank the people of Colorado for their patience as we work to ensure a fair, efficient, and effective distribution process.

When did the state tell providers about the changes in phasing?

We have had several stakeholder meetings to workshop the changes with providers. We have taken their feedback into consideration in our updates. We are grateful for their partnership and will continue to work closely with them.

How do eligible people sign up now?

For information about how to contact your local provider about vaccination, please visit CDPHE's [Find out where you can get vaccinated](#) webpage.

Has the state collected weblinks and phone #s?

Yes, the state maintains a list of contact information for all providers who have received vaccine shipments. Additionally, many providers have offered specific information about how Coloradans age 70 and up can sign up for a vaccine appointment. This information is publicly available on the COVID-19 website.

How is the state prioritizing people with high risk conditions?

People with multiple comorbidities that put them at higher risk of serious illness or death are now recommended for vaccination in Phase 1B.3.

How does Colorado learn from the federal government what the state is getting and then how are allocations made across the state?

Currently, we receive our next week's allocation of vaccines on Tuesdays and Fridays. Our current state-wide planning factors are 60% to Medical Providers/Pharmacies, 15% to LPHAs, 15% to FQHCs, and 10% to the Equity Task Force. Our staff uses a combination of vaccination allocation requests from health care providers/agencies, state planning factors, area population, and limited doses from the federal government to determine allocation across the state. Orders to Operation Warp Speed are completed on Thursday evenings and doses start arriving in state on the following Monday.

Will those with underlying health conditions have to show proof of their health conditions in order to get the vaccine during Phase 1B.3 or phase 2?

Coloradans should talk to their providers about whether they have 2 high risk conditions that would put them in phase 1B.3. Providers should use their best judgement to follow the guidelines released by the state.

Will people 65 and older be able to make appointments for February 8th starting today?

This will depend on the provider. For information about how to contact your local provider about vaccination, please visit CDPHE's [Find out where you can get vaccinated](#) webpage.