



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Vaccine Supplies in Northeast Colorado

Sterling, Colo. – February 1, 2021: While the COVID-19 vaccine won't end the pandemic overnight, and we will all still have to follow public health protocols for a while longer, each vaccination will move us closer to doing the things we miss most. A lot of people are excited to get vaccinated and local vaccine providers are excited to administer the vaccine. However, there are limited doses at this time and all vaccine providers must work through the phases and protocols outlined by state health officials.

Vaccine is being provided to counties based on population and because of this, people really need to be vaccinated within the same county that they either live or work. Recently there has been a change to the allocation strategy for vaccine across providers in Colorado. Sixty percent of the vaccine is now going to large healthcare providers such as hospitals and pharmacies, fifteen percent will go to Federally Qualified Health Centers (i.e., Salud Family Health Centers), fifteen percent is allocated for local public health agencies (i.e., NCHD), and ten percent is going to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) lab.

Because vaccine supplies are limited it isn't possible for everyone to get vaccinated at once and therefore, the vaccine is being distributed in phases.

Groups of people are categorized based upon risk of exposure and illness from the COVID-19 disease. All vaccine providers are currently in Phase 1A and 1B.1 which includes highest risk and moderate risk healthcare workers, emergency personnel, long term care facilities' staff and residents as well as Coloradans over 70 years of age. Colorado is prioritizing individuals 70 years and older because they have been most seriously affected by this virus. Over forty percent of the hospitalizations and over seventy-five percent of the deaths in Colorado have occurred in people over age 70. By vaccinating people who are most at risk from COVID-19 first, we can slow the spread of the virus and keep more residents safe. As of today, thirty-nine percent of Coloradans over the age of 70 have received their first dose of vaccine and the state goal is to vaccinate seventy percent by the end of February. For the Northeast All-Hazards Region (Larimer, Weld, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Yuma, Kit Carson, Lincoln and Cheyenne Counties), this means that 30,596 individuals 70 years and above have been vaccinated with an additional 45,741 individuals remaining eligible as of January 31.

"We continue to ask for your patience as we follow the guidelines and phases," said Trish McClain, Director of NCHD. "As those who are able to get the vaccine do get their shots, protection will increase for the community as a whole."

In January, Colorado was receiving 65,000-70,000 doses per week which was allocated to more than 500 providers in all 64 counties. In February, it is expected that supplies sent to Colorado will increase by 16,000 doses per week. The Northeast Colorado Health Department and other vaccine providers in northeast Colorado are allotted only small amounts of vaccine each week by CDPHE and therefore, only a limited number of people in our health district are able to receive the vaccination from each shipment. In the six county region

served by NCHD, 6,800 first doses and 5,500 second doses have been distributed to local vaccine providers and there are a little over 15,000 people categorized into Phase 1A and 1B.1. The state is actively enrolling new providers and in time, there will be more places that people can get the vaccine. As more vaccine becomes accessible and as supplies increase nationally, we will continue to provide the vaccine to the residents of northeast Colorado following the phases and state guidelines. The speed at which we are able to move through the phases will largely depend on the supply of vaccine.

On Monday, February 8, we will move into Phase 1B.2 which will include Coloradans ages 65-69, Pre-K to 12th grade educators and childcare workers. The next goal is to move into Phase 1B.3 in early March to vaccinate frontline essential workers and individuals ages 16-64 with two or more high risk conditions.

Please know that all people are important and this prioritization list doesn't mean those further down on the list aren't important. This situation is evolving. State officials continue to evaluate recommendations and the federal supply of vaccine as well as completed vaccination data. The phased approach has been developed in order to save lives and to distribute the limited supply of vaccine as efficiently and fairly as possible. While you are waiting to receive the vaccine, you can prepare by getting the facts so you are ready to get vaccinated as soon it is possible. If you have questions or concerns, please visit with your primary care provider.

We will provide information on when and how to sign up for vaccination clinics that NCHD will be holding in Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma counties. You can stay up to date by going to <https://www.nchd.org/covid-19-vaccine>. We continue to ask everyone to have

patience, as NCHD and our healthcare partners work hard to get the vaccine to everyone who wants it as soon as we can.

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