



COVID-19 VACCINATION: WHAT WE KNOW NOW

JANUARY 22, 2021

VACCINATION DISTRIBUTION BEGINS

The first COVID-19 vaccines are here. Supply from the Federal Government is extremely limited. Additional New Yorkers will become eligible as the vaccine supply increases. Over seven million New Yorkers are now eligible for the vaccine and will be distributed in phases. We are currently in Phase 1B. Among those who are eligible, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their Care Managers are NOT included.

ADVOCACY FOR THE IDD COMMUNITY

LIFEPlan members and the disabilities community have been sounding the alarm, asking the Governor to expand access to COVID vaccines for ALL individuals with disabilities, regardless of where they live. The seven CCOs and other organizations wrote a [letter to the Governor](#) to advocate on behalf of the IDD community and Care Managers to prioritize their vaccination. Those living in congregate residential facilities certified by New York State have now become eligible however, there is still more advocacy to be done for the rest of our population. We are grateful to Senator John Mannion, the Chair of the Committee on Developmental Disabilities, for responding to our collective advocacy, but also know that without ample supply, our most vulnerable will also need to wait. If authorized, at least individuals with disabilities will be able to schedule appointments when more vaccine is available. Please support Senator Mannion's efforts by calling on your elected officials to ask the Governor to take action!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Relevant eligible groups include people **age 65 and over and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities** who live in residential facilities among many others, have been designated as phase one recipients of the vaccine, subject to availability. OPWDD Informed Consent Committee wrote Interim Guidance for the distribution of the vaccine to those living in congregate residential facilities and is requiring a Screening and Consent form.

SCHEDULING A VACCINE APPOINTMENT

LIFEPlan encourages you all to speak to your medical provider in order to make an informed decision regarding obtaining the COVID Vaccine. Your doctor or health care provider is the best source of information on if, how, when and where to schedule a vaccine appointment. Vaccines are available at pharmacies, hospitals and through local health departments. **An appointment is required.**

To schedule an appointment online, visit the Am I Eligible site.

To schedule an appointment by phone, call the New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline from 7am – 10pm, 7 days a week at 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829). **Note:** Phone wait times may be long.

We will continue to provide you with updated information on the COVID-19 vaccine as new information becomes available.

In this fast paced and at times confusing environment, LIFEPlan Care Managers are encouraged to stay abreast of latest developments and guidance from these sources in order to support questions that may come from members and families.

All resources mentioned are available here:

