



February 24, 2021

Public Health Alert: COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Governor Lamont Announces Connecticut Will Continue Age-Based Approach To COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility; Educators and Childcare Providers To Have Dedicated Clinics in March

In an effort to ensure that Connecticut continues taking the most equitable and efficient approach to quickly administering the COVID-19 vaccine to as many people as possible, Governor Ned Lamont today announced that the state will continue with an age-based approach to expanding eligibility to the vaccine, explaining that other previously considered scenarios proved overly complex and confusing, would potentially exacerbate inequities in vaccine distribution, and slow down the process of providing it to Connecticut residents.

Age is one of the strongest factors contributing to COVID-19 deaths, with 96 percent of COVID-19 deaths in Connecticut occurring in people over the age of 55.

To provide clarity and predictability, the governor today announced a schedule for age-based eligibility for the next several months. By laying out a clear timeline for eligibility for the vaccine, the strategy allows everyone in the state, including essential workers and those with chronic conditions, to know when they will be able to schedule an appointment. The planned schedule is as follows:

- **March 1, 2021:** Expands to age group 55 to 64
- **March 22, 2021:** Expands to age group 45 to 54
- **April 12, 2021:** Expands to age group 35 to 44
- **May 3, 2021:** Expands to age group 16 to 34

In addition to the age-based eligibility, preK-12 school staff and teachers, and professional childcare providers will be eligible to receive the vaccine in March at dedicated clinics that will be set up specifically for those sectors. Educators and childcare professionals will soon receive information from their school administrators and employers on when their dedicated clinics will be provided.

Connecticut has been using a phased approach to its COVID-19 vaccine program because of the very limited supply of the vaccine that it has been receiving from the federal government. The program initially began in December with healthcare providers and medical first responders, and then expanded in January to include all individuals over the age of 75 and certain congregate settings, followed by those over the age of 65 in mid-February. All previously eligible individuals and settings will continue to be eligible after March 1.

All eligible individuals in Connecticut are required to make an appointment in advance of receiving the vaccine. Residents aged 55 to 64 should not attempt to make an appointment now – they will not be able to schedule one until the program expands to their age group on March 1

“We have been in the COVID-19 marathon for approaching a year and now our race becomes a sprint to beat the variants of COVID-19 that are now circulating in the state and elsewhere and to return to a sense of normalcy for ourselves, our families and our communities,” **Connecticut Acting Public Health Commissioner**

Visit the State of Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Portal for more information:

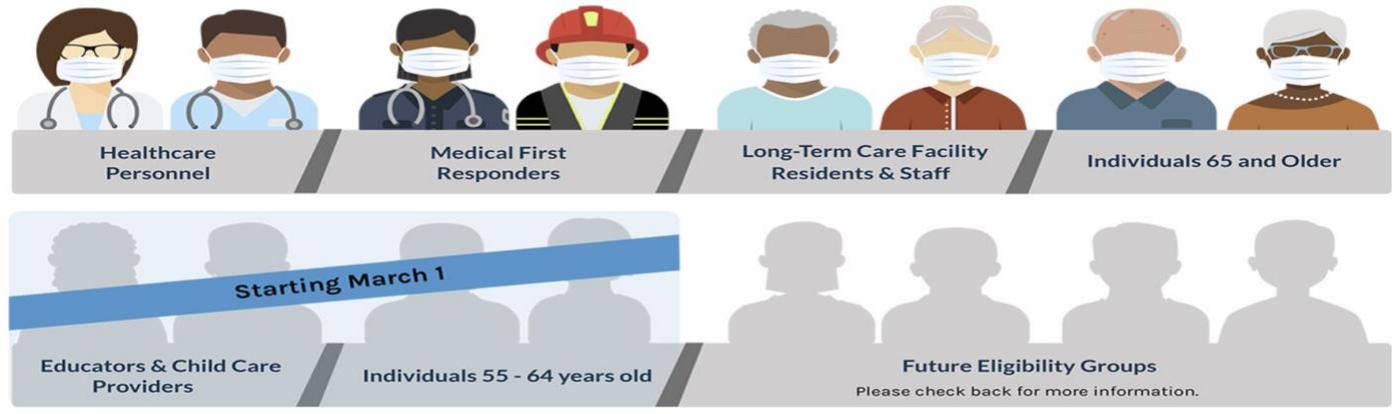
<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations>

Dr. Deidre Gifford, who also serves as co-chair of the Governor’s COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group, said. “The Department of Public Health is committed to an equitable vaccination program. Sticking with an age-based vaccine rollout allows our vaccine providers to get as many shots as possible as quickly and equitably as possible into the arms of Connecticut residents, and vaccinating our education and childcare workforce will get our children back in the classroom this school year.”

CT COVID-19 Vaccine: Phases and Eligibility

Who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine?

CT residents and workers who are currently eligible include:



Current Eligibility Details

Eligible groups, based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Governor’s vaccine advisory group are:



Healthcare Personnel:

- Paid and unpaid people serving in healthcare settings with potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients of infectious materials



Medical First Responders:

- Individuals who respond to medical 911 calls and face risk of exposure to COVID-19



Long-Term Care Facility Residents:

- Adults who reside in facilities that provide a range of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently



Residents and Staff of select congregate settings:

- Staff and residents of halfway homes, inpatient mental health facilities, correction facilities, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, substance use and residential treatment facilities along with others



Individuals 65 and Older:

- Residents and workers within the State of CT who are 65+

Eligibility Starting March 1

The following groups will be able to start scheduling appointments on March 1.



Educators and Child Care Providers:

- Pre-K-12 Teachers, paraprofessionals, custodial staff, food service providers, school bus drivers and childcare providers as well as in-school administrative staff. Does not include individuals who are not required to work on-site in a school.



Individuals 55 and Older:

- Residents and employees within the State of CT who are 55+

Visit the State of Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Portal for more information:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations>

Schedule on the phone by calling the [CT Vaccine Appointment Assist Line](tel:877-918-2224) at:
877-918-2224

The line will take calls on 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Schedule through a healthcare provider ready for public distribution of vaccine to eligible residents. All locations require pre-scheduling and registration – **no walk-ins will be allowed.**

- [Click Here](#) to visit the CT Vaccine Clinic Map to find a clinic.
- **Nutmeg Pharmacy** in Centerbrook (860-767-1389), Higganum (860-345-3607), Moodus, & Taftville: <https://www.nutmegpharmacy.com/covid19-vaccine>
- **Middlesex Health** at 117 Main St. Extension, Middletown. Call 860-358-7050 to schedule. Or Visit <https://middlesexhealth.org/patients-and-visitors/coronavirus-information/covid-19-vaccine>
- **CVS** in Guilford, Waterford, Colchester, Uncasville, Putnam, Windsor Locks, and more: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>
- **Walgreens**: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19>
- **Walmart**: <https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302>
- **Yale New Haven Health**: <https://www.ynhhs.org/patient-care/covid-19/vaccine/get-your-covid-vaccine.aspx>
- **Hartford Healthcare**: <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/health-wellness/covid-vaccine/schedule-your-vaccine> <https://health.uconn.edu/coronavirus/covid-vaccine/>
- **UConn Health**: **860-679-5589** or visit: <https://health.uconn.edu/coronavirus/covid-vaccine/>

Schedule through the online [Vaccine Administration Management System \(VAMS\)](#):

Go to this website: <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine>

Click on the links below for instructions on how to schedule your vaccine appointment in VAMS:

<https://ecsu-bisaitp.org>

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/VAMS-Account-Creation-and-Scheduling-Guide.pdf>

[Click Here to learn more about VAMS.](#)