

COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION - JANUARY 2021

In response to a request for information regarding COVID-19 vaccine distribution, Emily Chuma, Twig's Inova Alexandria Hospital contact, stated that in Virginia, the state is responsible for overall distribution of the vaccine and decides who gets the vaccine and when. Inova currently has no issues obtaining the vaccine, and has vaccinated over 10,000 team members thus far. Inova Alexandria Hospital is not anticipating administering the vaccine to the public at this time, but that may change. Emily, and Shannon Hiskey, will share further information as it comes available.

Various websites show the following as the phases for vaccine distribution in Virginia:

Phase 1A - includes health care workers and long-term care facility residents. Hospitals have been administering doses to their staff, while the Alexandria Health Department has handled health care workers not affiliated with hospital systems.

Phase 1B - includes people aged 75 and older, people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters and migrant camps, and front-line essential workers who are "essential to the functioning of society, are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARSCoV-2, and cannot work remotely." These include police, fire and hazmat; corrections and homeless shelter workers; child care, K-12 teachers and staff; food and agriculture, manufacturing; grocery store workers; public transit workers; and USPS and private mail carriers.

Phase 1C - includes people aged 65 to 74, people aged 16 to 64 with a high risk medical condition, and other essential workers. These essential worker groups include energy; water and wastewater; housing construction; food service; transportation and logistics; higher education institution faculty and staff; finance; information technology and communication; media; legal services; public safety (engineers); other public health workers; and officials needed to maintain continuity of government.

Although most states are following the above guidelines for vaccine distribution, provided by CDC's Advisory Committee on Inoculation Practices (ACIP), federal law does not require states to do so. Check individual state departments of health sites for specific details. Also, check the appropriate locale website for distribution dates.

Alexandria plans to initiate Phase 1B vaccinations the week of January 11. I could find no specific dates for Maryland and the District.

Because Twig has members who reside in Maryland and the District, following are various sites for vaccine distribution schedules and other COVID-related information:

-Virginia State Health Department: www.vdc.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine

-City of Alexandria Health Department specifically: (alexandriava.gov/COVID(must search)

NOTE: City of Alexandria site that goes directly to the registration form (can be used by all City residents: specific information is requested that will place applicants in the appropriate Phase):

www.tinyurl.com/alexandriacovid

Tel. 703-746-4988

NOTE: IF YOU LIVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ZIP CODES: 22303,22306, 22307, 22308, 22309, 22310, 22313, 22315, YOU CANNOT USE THIS SITE—YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY AND MUST REGISTER ACCORDINGLY.

-Fairfax Health Department: health@fairfaxcounty.gov/covidvaccine

Tel. 703-246-2411

-For other Virginia counties, check the Virginia State Health Department site shown above.

-Maryland State Health Department: health.maryland.gov

Tel. 410-767-6500

-DC Health Department: dchealth.dc.gov(a search box is available)

Tel. 202-535-2180

Information regarding COVID-19 inoculations can vary daily. A number of websites, such as the Patch and Alexandria eNews, exist that provide such information. Besides using websites, however, check with your specific health department for the most recent details. another source to check is your primary care physician.

A special thank-you to Mimi Olinger for providing the specific Alexandria website that goes directly to the registration form and for the telephone number. Also, special thanks to Jennifer Kilmer for reviewing this data to note any additions and/or corrections.