

## COVID-19 Vaccine Update from the Governor's Office – January 22, 2021

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To: townclerk townofstrattonvt.com <townclerk@townofstrattonvt.com>

Dear Kent:

Governor Scott asked us to share this COVID-19 Vaccine Update with you.

As vaccination efforts move forward, important information is provided below, and additional updates will be provided Monday.

If you know of anyone else who would be interested in these updates, they can sign up here: <https://governor.vermont.gov/email>. If you are receiving this email directly from our office, you have already been added to the Governor's COVID-19 Vaccine Updates.

Please continue to be safe during these challenging times. Your support, patience and understanding in this effort is greatly appreciated. We will get through this, together.

Sincerely,

The Governor's Constituent Services Office Team

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PHASE 2 OF VERMONT'S VACCINE DISTRIBUTION EFFORT:**

#### **Who is eligible and when can they make an appointment?**

If you are age 75 or older, you can make an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccination starting **Monday, January 25**.

The best way to make an appointment is through the Health Department's website: [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](http://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine). The page currently has information for Vermonters to learn about the process, but **you will not be able register until Monday**.

Eligible Vermonters should plan to register online – it will be the fastest way to register. There will be a call center option, but we encourage you to use the online form. Both the phone number and the website link will be released when registration opens Monday.

#### **Why vaccinate older and at-risk Vermonters first?**

The data is clear that the older you are, the higher your overall risk of hospitalization and death. In fact, more than 70% of Vermont's COVID-19 deaths have been Vermonters 75 or older – and about 93% are 65 or older.

Given these facts -- and the limited number of doses states are receiving from the federal government -- we have a moral obligation to take this age-based approach.

By prioritizing based on that risk we are meeting our number one goal in this emergency: To save lives. Expanding to a broader population based on jobs and sectors would distract us from this mission, and given the limited supply, would make little impact on stopping the spread of the virus to our most vulnerable.

This approach is the fastest way to reduce the number of people who have severe illness, which will help us get back to normal earlier.

After everyone over 75 has had access, we'll move to 70+ then 65+ then people of any age with certain high-risk conditions. And once everyone at the greatest risk of severe illness, complications or death has access, or many more doses of vaccine become available, the State may modify this age-banded vaccination strategy.

### **What time on Monday will registration open?**

Once registration is open, the State will announce it on social media, through email updates, as well as through a press release to local news media. The Vermont Department of Health will also share the information through community partners across the state.

### **How does the registration work?**

We strongly encourage people to review the step-by-step video showing and explaining the registration process, which can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

After going to [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine), you will need to create an account, then you will be prompted through the process. Family members are strongly encouraged to help their elderly loved ones register online. This will help leave the phone lines open for those who do not have help.

### **What will I need to make an appointment?**

You will be asked to provide your name, date of birth, address, email if you have one, and a phone number. You'll be asked for your insurance information, [but this is not required](#).

You will also be asked a few medical questions to make sure you can get the vaccine. The video referenced above provides more details about the questions, so you can be prepared to answer them when you make your appointment.

### **What if I can't register online?**

Once registration opens, a phone number will be released that can connect you with a registration assistant. These assistants will be available Monday – Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **Where will the clinics be?**

Vaccinations will be given through the Health Department at clinics around the state. You will see available locations and be able to choose a day and time for your appointment.

You must have an appointment to receive a vaccine at one of these locations. You **will not** be allowed to walk-in to a location without an appointment. And when you make an appointment, it is VERY important that you keep it – so vaccine is not wasted.

### **What if I am unable to leave my home to get to a clinic?**

We are currently working with home health agencies and first responders to make sure people who are unable to leave their home can get a COVID-19 vaccine.

These in-home vaccine visits are not yet ready, but we will provide an update as soon as possible.

### **Do I need to live in Vermont to make an appointment?**

Yes. You will need to provide your primary address to make an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine. However, you can still get a vaccine in Vermont if you moved to Vermont within the last 6 months with the purpose of becoming a resident.

### **If I am not qualified to make an appointment at this time, is there a waiting list I can get on?**

No, there is not a waiting list at this time and you should not attempt to register until you are eligible. We will continue to provide updates and announcements as we expand the age range that can be vaccinated.

### **What should I expect at my appointment?**

First, it's critical to show up on time and keep your appointment.

People who receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine will receive either the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Most people will be asked to wait for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine. They will also be given information about side effects and how to report any adverse reactions.

### **How will I receive my second dose?**

After getting your first dose, clinic staff will help you make a second appointment to receive the second dose.

**Stay up to Date:** There are ways you can stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations, including who can get the vaccine and who will be eligible next. Check this website often: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont>

### **Additional resources:**

- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions: <https://apps.health.vermont.gov/COVID/faq/#vaccine>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-dashboard>.
- COVID-19 Cases Dashboard: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard>.

Interested in providing feedback on your experience with our office? Click here for a quick, one-minute survey. Thank you!

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