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January 11, 2021 Time 1200 (12:00 PM EDT)
NH-HAN 20210111



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak, Update # 33

COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan Update

Quarantine Guidance Update

Key Points and Recommendations:

- New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) has published an updated summary of the [COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan](#), which prioritizes vaccine for those at higher risk for severe COVID-19, or at risk for spreading COVID-19 to vulnerable populations, to reduce morbidity and mortality.
- COVID-19 vaccination is currently only available for [Phase 1a](#) persons.
 - All persons in Phase 1a are eligible for vaccination, including “moderate risk” health workers and first responders.
 - See prior NH DPHS [HAN #31](#) for information on how ambulatory health workers and first responders can access the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Vaccination for persons in Phase 1b is not yet open, but is expected to begin by the end of January. NH DPHS will provide instructions to the public on how to register for and access vaccination.
- NH DPHS quarantine guidance for people who are fully vaccinated or previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 has been updated ([Quarantine Guide](#)). This guidance applies to the general public, businesses, schools, and healthcare facilities, including long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and assisted living facilities (ALFs). The following people do NOT need to quarantine after an unprotected exposure to a person with COVID-19, or after travel outside of New England:
 - A person who is 14 days beyond the second dose of their COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., 14 days after full vaccination).
 - A person who is within 90 days of a prior SARS-CoV-2 infection diagnosed by PCR or antigen testing.
 - People with prior infection should be vaccinated to provide the highest level of protection against COVID-19.
- Staff and residents of LTCFs/ALFs who are at least 14 days beyond their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, or who are within 90 days of a previous SARS-CoV-2 infection (diagnosed by PCR or antigen testing), may be exempted from the COVID-19 Resident and Staff Surveillance Program (CRSSSP) unless otherwise required to test under CMS requirements.
- Regardless of prior infection or vaccination status, any person with new or unexplained [symptoms of COVID-19](#) still needs to isolate ([Isolation Guide](#)), and be evaluated for COVID-19 testing.
- NH DPHS and CDC continue to discourage any non-essential travel, even for people fully vaccinated or previously infected because protection is not 100%, durability of immunity is still unknown, and there are new circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2 in other states and countries that are being investigated.
 - See NH DPHS [travel guidance](#).
 - See CDC [travel guidance](#).

- It remains possible that people who are fully vaccinated or previously infected could still acquire asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection, or attenuated (milder) COVID-19. Therefore, even people who are fully vaccinated or previously infected need to continue to practice physical distancing, avoid social groups and gatherings, and wear face masks at all times when in public places and facilities. Healthcare providers should continue to follow all recommended infection control and personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance.

For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).

If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.

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Status: Actual
Message Type: Alert
Severity: Moderate
Sensitivity: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN 20210111 COVID-19, Update 33
Delivery Time: 12 hours
Acknowledgement: No
Distribution Method: Email, Fax
Distributed to: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospitals, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, EMS, Nurses, NHHA, Pharmacists, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Networks, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Northeast State Epidemiologists, Zoonotic Alert Team, Health Officers, Deputy Health Officers, MRC, NH Schools, EWIDS, Dialysis & Transplant Clinics, STD Clinics, Immunization Practices, Travel Centers, Influenza Sentinels, Urgent Care Centers, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Walk-in Clinics, Poison Center, Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Centers, Long-Term Care Facilities, Community Mental Health Centers, Health Departments, Internal Medicine, Occupational Health, Gastroenterology, Schools and Daycare Providers, Regional Public Health Networks, Environmental Services, Family Planning Programs, Department of Corrections, Home Care Providers, Local and State Partners, Area Agencies

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Attachments: None