



UPDATED GUIDANCE ON GROUP 1A COVID-19 VACCINATION • FOR ESSEX COUNTY RESIDENTS



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BROADENS AND CLARIFIES GROUP 1A – HEALTHCARE WORKERS

The New Jersey Department of Health recently broadened and clarified category Group 1A, those who are currently eligible to receive the first round of COVID-19 vaccinations. Group 1A includes healthcare provider, and staff & residents of long-term care facilities. Residents of long-term facilities are receiving the vaccine directly and on-site, they need not register and or travel to a vaccination site.

Who are “healthcare personnel” in Phase 1A?

Healthcare personnel are paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

This includes any type of worker within a healthcare setting. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ licensed healthcare professionals like doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists
- ✓ staff like receptionists, janitors, mortuary services, laboratory technicians
- ✓ consultants, per diem, and contractors who are not directly employed by the facility
- ✓ unpaid workers like health professional students, trainees, volunteers, and essential caregivers
- ✓ community health workers, doulas, and public health professionals like Medical Reserve Corps
- ✓ personnel with variable venues like EMS, paramedics, funeral staff, and autopsy workers
- ✓ other paid or unpaid people who work in a healthcare setting, who may have direct or indirect contact with infectious persons or materials, and who cannot work from home

Who are “unpaid” healthcare workers?

Persons who work within a healthcare setting, but are not paid. These include, but are not limited to health professional students, trainees, volunteers, and essential caregivers.

What are “healthcare settings” in Phase 1A?

For COVID-19 vaccination, any venue where healthcare occurs is a healthcare setting.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ Acute, pediatric, and behavioral health hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers
- ✓ Health facilities like psychiatric facilities, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and rehabs
- ✓ Clinic-based settings like urgent care clinics, dialysis centers, and family planning sites
- ✓ Long-term care settings like nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, and others
- ✓ Occupational-based healthcare settings like health clinics within workplaces, shelters, jails, colleges and universities, and K-12 schools
- ✓ Community-based healthcare settings like PACE and Adult Living Community Nursing
- ✓ Home-based settings like hospice, home care, and visiting nurse services
- ✓ Office-based healthcare settings like physician and dental offices
- ✓ Public health settings like local health departments, LINCS agencies, harm reduction centers, and medicinal marijuana programs
- ✓ Retail, independent, and institutional pharmacies
- ✓ Other settings where healthcare is provided



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WHEN WILL NEW JERSEY MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PHASE?

When will New Jersey change phases?

Specific dates are not known at this time. Factors like supply of vaccine, public confidence and uptake, time, and federal guidance will inform data-driven decisions. Governor Murphy and Commissioner of Health Persichilli will announce when New Jersey changes phases.

There are approximately 650,000 people eligible for Phase 1A, so it may be weeks before New Jersey moves to Phase 1B.

ONCE VACCINE AVAILABILITY EXPANDS, VACCINATION WILL ADVANCE TO PHASE 1B, THEN PHASE 1C, AND THEN PHASE 2.

Currently, **Phase 1B** of vaccination will include frontline essential workers and individuals over 75; **Phase 1C** will include other essential workers, adults 65-74, and persons aged 16-64 with medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19. Following these phases, the general public (Phase 2) will be eligible for vaccination.

See here for more information: <https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/how-will-new-jersey-distribute-a-covid-19-vaccine-is-there-a-plan>

This information is constantly evolving and therefore subject to change. Updated communications will reflect new guidance issued.

IF I QUALIFY AS GROUP 1A, WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO BE VACCINATED?

You can register at www.essexcovid.org or call (973) 877-8456

The state opened a new portal allowing NJ residents to preregister: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>, please see section on how the portal works and what preregistration means.



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HOW DOES THE STATE'S NEW VACCINE PREREGISTRATION PORTAL WORK?

The state opened a new portal allowing NJ residents to preregister for the vaccine:
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>

The portal allows residents to be pre-screened determining their eligibility for vaccination according to the population categories or tiers established. Only those who qualify as healthcare workers or long-term care residents under 1A can be vaccinated at this time. Once screened through the portal, 1A persons will receive an email directing them to a list of vaccination sites within a 25 mile radius of their residence where they can schedule an appointment.

All other residents who register on the portal at this time will be informed by reply email that they do not qualify at this time but that they will receive a notification once their population category opens up and they will be directed at that time to locations within a 25 mile radius of their residence to schedule an appointment. This preregistration does not guarantee anyone an appointment nor place anyone in a queue but it will notify residents registered about when they will be eligible for vaccination. The portal also allows the state to determine vaccination interest and need.

WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE IF I QUALIFY OR HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Please call (973) 877-8456 (recently established call center) or go to www.covid19.nj.gov for more information.

I HEARD THAT THERE WERE FEW PEOPLE AT THE COUNTY VACCINATION SITES DURING THE FIRST 6 DAYS OF VACCINATIONS, IF THIS TRUE / WHY WAS THAT?

The County began vaccinations on December 26th in a soft launch. The number of registrations was capped at 250 per day at each site in order to iron out any issues in the process and to ensure a smooth, safe & efficient operation going forward. The County is ramping up vaccinations starting on Monday January 4. As with testing before, the number of vaccination registrations will increase in the coming weeks as vaccine supply increases and vaccination proceeds into the next population phases.



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ARE THE COUNTY SITES THE ONLY PLACE WHERE HEALTHCARE WORKERS CAN BE VACCINATED?

No, there are more sites that are opening up to vaccinate those in group 1A. For this list, refer to the Townships' COVID webpages:

- <https://www.southorange.org/DocumentCenter/View/4841/NJ-COVID-19-Vaccine-Locations>
- <https://www.twp.maplewood.nj.us/vaxlocations>

THE STATE OPENED A NEW PORTAL ALLOWING NJ RESIDENTS TO PREREGISTER:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine>, please see section on how the portal works and what preregistration means.



List of All Vaccination Sites:

[HTTPS://WWW.SOUTHORANGE.ORG/
DOCUMENTCENTER/VIEW/4841/NJ-
COVID-19-VACCINE-LOCATIONS](https://www.southorange.org/DocumentCenter/View/4841/NJ-COVID-19-Vaccine-Locations)

[HTTPS://WWW.TWP.MAPLEWOOD.NJ.
US/VAXLOCATIONS](https://www.twp.maplewood.nj.us/vaxlocations)



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VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS WORK!
THE COMMUNITY NEEDS ALL OF US!!

IF I REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER, WILL I GET VACCINATED?

Yes, if you register to volunteer at the vaccination sites, you will be able to receive the vaccination. Currently, 700 residents of Maplewood and South Orange have volunteered to assist the county at these vaccination sites. In order for this to work, we need volunteers!!

Thank you!

TO REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER, SIGN UP HERE:

For medical professionals:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXC0l-q2tI9yCNegWxKv69RqQTTnvTD_dS8OULICGYpJUiHA/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXC0l-q2tI9yCNegWxKv69RqQTTnvTD_dS8OULICGYpJUiHA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

For non-medical professionals:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdy25OMRo0mdkAJCnFQCKGtJeWfJ2BrOAB-poo_katMzp7lw/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdy25OMRo0mdkAJCnFQCKGtJeWfJ2BrOAB-poo_katMzp7lw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

COVID-19 Vaccine Overview:

WWW.TWP.MAPLEWOOD.NJ.US/VACCINE

Also, please consult the New Jersey Department of Health's
Vaccination Plan details here:

[HTTPS://WWW.NJ.GOV/HEALTH/CD/TOPICS/COVID2019_VACCINATION.SHTML](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml)