

Community Engagement and Public Information Department

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY INFORMATION
County Follows VDH Guidance on Vaccine
Distribution



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester County is working closely with the Three Rivers District of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to coordinate COVID-19 vaccination distribution locally as vaccines become available. VDH is distributing the vaccine in a phased approach and is currently working on a public information campaign to advise residents when and where the vaccine will be made available to them.

The phased approach delivers the vaccine as it becomes available to a series of priority groups, according to Lisa Laurier, population health manager for the Three Rivers Health District. Working in partnership with strategically located Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers in the district, and in collaboration with the Riverside Health System, VDH is currently wrapping up initial vaccinations for those in the Phase 1a category, which includes healthcare workers (healthcare system and community-based), long-term care residents, and EMS providers.

Phase 1b is expected to begin soon and will include the vaccination of other first responders (fire/rescue and Sheriff's departments); child care and K-12 personnel; front-line essential workers in manufacturing, food/grocery, transit, and postal services; as well as those with the highest risk of severe COVID-19 illness, including people 75 years of age and older. The health district is currently contacting employers of non-healthcare-system-based workers classified in Phase 1b to arrange appointments for their employees to receive the vaccine.

The subsequent phase, Phase 1c, will include essential workers not otherwise included in phase 1b (construction, transportation, food service, utilities, etc.), people 65-74 years of age, and people between the ages of 16 and 64 that have high risk medical conditions.

VDH is currently administering the Moderna vaccine in the Three Rivers Health District, as the Pfizer vaccine requires extreme cold storage methods that are not widely available.

For more information, including more specific Phase definitions, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and CDC vaccine information, visit <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>.

VDH is also maintaining a COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, which can be accessed by visiting <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia/>. For specific questions, contact the local VDH district office at 804-815-4191.

End of Announcement