

PHASE 1B, 1C, & 2
GUIDANCE FOR
COVID-19 VACCINE
ALLOCATION

THE COVID-19 **VACCINE**



OVERVIEW

South Carolina continues to focus on protecting the lives and health of South Carolinians from COVID-19. With the increased supply of vaccine and progress in vaccinating people in group 1a (front line health care workers and those age 65 and over), South Carolina is ready to move on to the next phase. This plan prioritizes those with greatest risk, while ensuring equitable access to the vaccine for every South Carolinian age 16 and over.

This approach continues to recognize that risk of hospitalization and death from COVID worsens with age, especially for those over 45, and that people with certain medical conditions and occupational exposures are at higher risk. As a result, South Carolina will move to phase 1b, and then 1c and 2 as described below with the goal of vaccinating every South Carolinian who wishes to receive the vaccine by Summer.

PHASE 1B

Appointments can be made by individuals in the following groups beginning March 8, 2021:

1. **Individuals aged 55 and up**
2. **Individuals with Increased Risk for Severe COVID-19 Disease**
 - o Persons aged 16-54 with one or more of the following high-risk medical conditions:
High-risk medical conditions: cancer (current, not a history of cancer), chronic kidney disease (any stage), chronic lung disease, diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2), Down syndrome, heart disease (congestive heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary hypertension), HIV/AIDS, solid organ transplant, obesity (BMI >30), pregnancy, sickle cell disease.
 - o Persons who have a developmental or other severe high-risk disability that makes developing severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection more likely
3. **Frontline Workers with Increased Occupational Risk**
Frontline workers with increased occupational risk are people who:
 - o Must be in-person at their place of work, **and**
 - o Perform a job in which they are at increased risk of exposure due to their frequent, close (<6 feet) and ongoing (>15 minutes) contact with others in the work environment

A person's eligibility for a COVID-19 vaccine isn't based on a specific job or work sector. If a person decides that they meet job risk using the criteria above, they are eligible.

Some examples of people who may be frontline workers based on risk may include school staff and daycare workers, criminal justice staff, government employees, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, and law enforcement officers.

4. **Individuals at Increased Risk in Settings where People are Living and Working in Close Contact**
 - o Residents and workers in group home settings for the mentally or physically disabled or those with behavioral or substance abuse conditions
 - o Workers and residents in homeless shelters
 - o Workers and residents in community training homes (CTHs)
 - o State and local correctional facility staff with direct inmate contact
 - o Correctional and immigration detention facility inmates
 - o Migrant farmworkers living in shared housing or reliant on shared transportation
5. **All workers in healthcare and community health settings who have routine, direct patient contact and were not vaccinated in Phase 1a**

PHASE 1C

Appointments can be made by individuals in the following groups beginning approximately April 12, 2021*:

1. **Individuals aged 45 and up**
2. **Essential Workers**
This group includes those who work in essential job categories as defined by the CDC* who are not included in phase 1b because they do not have frequent, close contact with others in the work environment (examples may include construction workers, delivery drivers, utility workers, etc. who do not have frequent, close and ongoing contact with others)

PHASE 2

Appointments can be made by individuals in the following groups beginning approximately May 3, 2021*:

All South Carolinians age 16 and above

How will individuals demonstrate eligibility?

When seeking vaccine services individuals included in Phase 1b or 1c may show eligibility by showing an ID that includes their date-of-birth, attesting that they meet the criteria established above for a Frontline/Essential Worker, or by attesting that they have an eligible high-risk medical condition.

***All time estimates are subject to change due to vaccine availability, demand, and provider participation.**

DHEC guidance follows recommendations from the following resources:

- *CDC Guidance for essential workers: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/categories-essential-workers.html
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Criteria for COVID-19 Hazard Recognition: www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/hazardrecognition.html
- Risk from COVID-19 by racial and ethnic minority groups: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/increased-risk-exposure.html
- Vaccination Considerations for Persons with Disabilities: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/disabilities.html

CONTACT US

- For questions regarding phases of the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, please email: ACC-Immunization@dhec.sc.gov.
- For questions relating to COVID provider enrollment, please email: COVIDproviderenrollment@dhec.sc.gov.
- If you are an immunizer provider with questions related to the Vaccine Administration Management System, please email: VAMS@dhec.sc.gov.

