



Memo: COVID-19 Vaccination Phase 1b Information

To: Gateways Clients and Families

Dear Clients and Families:

As the stress of the pandemic and awaiting vaccination guidance has worn on many of us, we want you to know we're on your side. The state of NH is in charge of developing and implementing the COVID-19 Vaccination Program based on priorities due to limited vaccination supplies. At Gateways, we've been doing our best to advocate for prioritizing vaccinations for our clients, families, and staff, such as through conversations and information sharing with the Dept. of Public Health, Dept. of Health and Human Services, and other area agencies. We've been helping staff and some clients/families with their vaccination questions/issues as best we can. Please know you can reach out to your service coordinator or Susan O'Callaghan at socallaghan@gatewayscs.org if there's something we might be able to assist you with.

As you likely know, NH's COVID-19 Vaccination Program's Phase 1b registration opened at the end of last week. You can review the chart and its' links below to determine if you should register as part of Phase 1b. If you still have questions, there is additional information below the chart and calling 2-1-1 is a backup option as well. If you or your loved one do not qualify yet, you will be able to be vaccinated in a later vaccination phase determined by the state. The state is also working on a plan to make vaccines available to homebound clients.

NH Phase 1b Guidance

(1) If you are **aged 65 or older**, then register at <https://vaccines.nh.gov>. If you do not have internet access, dial 2-1-1 to get registration assistance.

(2a) If you are at a **significantly higher risk of morbidity or mortality, with two or more conditions** (see list below/on state website), then the State is requiring your health providers, per <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/covid-19-update34.pdf>, to provide verification of your co-morbid medical conditions, and register you on your behalf. If you do not have a health provider, dial 2-1-1 to get registration assistance.

(2b) If you are a **Family Caregiver of those medically vulnerable persons who are 16 years of age or younger** (not eligible for the vaccine), then register at <https://vaccines.nh.gov>. If you do not have internet access, dial 2-1-1 to get registration assistance.

(3) **Residents and staff of residential facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities**, residential facilities will have contacted parties.

(4) **Corrections officers and staff working in correctional facilities**, correctional facilities will have contacted parties.

(5) **For health workers and first responders not already vaccinated**, register at <https://vaccines.nh.gov>. If you do not have internet access, dial 2-1-1 to get registration assistance.

List of Underlying Medical Conditions (adapted from CDC):

Phase 1b: Two or more conditions

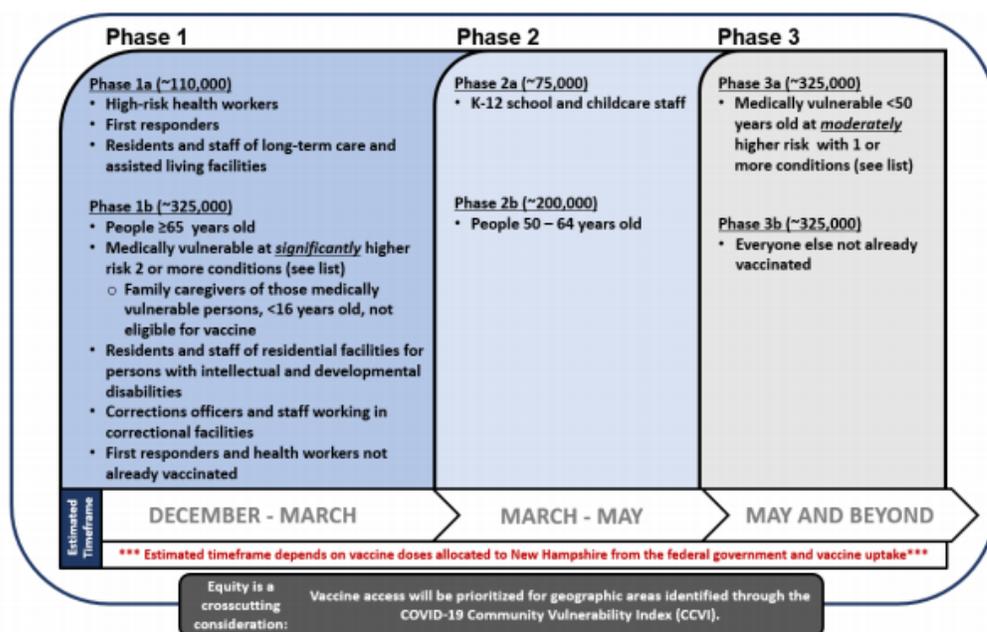
Phase 3a: One or more conditions

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) and other high-risk pulmonary disease
- Down Syndrome
- Heart Conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised states
- Obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m or higher)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Note: DPHS allows a health care provider to vaccinate any patient assessed to have significant risk for severe illness due to co-morbidities, even if not listed here. This list does not include every condition that might increase one's risk for developing severe illness from COVID-19, such as those for which evidence may be limited (e.g., rare conditions or combinations of conditions).

Here's how Phase 1b fits in with what we know of the bigger picture at this time...

New Hampshire COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan Summary January 16, 2021



The state created a "[Phase Check Link](#)" to help you determine if you qualify. More info. on the state's vaccination plan can be found as follows:

1. <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/vaccination-planning.htm>
2. <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid19-vaccine-allocation-plan-summary.pdf>

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gateways Community Services