



# Child Care Providers and the COVID-19 Vaccine

# Safety and effectiveness of the vaccine

- COVID-19 vaccine was tested for safety and effectiveness in large clinical trials
- Over 40,000 volunteers received the vaccine during the trial
- These volunteers checked in with scientists to report any side effects or illness
- The scientists applied for an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Both Pfizer and Moderna showed 95% effective rate in preventing COVID-19



# Vaccine allocation coming into Connecticut

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- Approximately 44,000 - 45,000 for first doses weekly
- We are prepared to administer additional doses if this number increases



# Reasons you should get vaccinated

- The vaccine will help you from getting COVID-19
- May help keep you from getting seriously ill if you do get COVID-19
- May protect people around you

## **But you will still need to continue with other safety measures:**

- Wear masks
- Social distance (6+ feet)
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect
- Monitor your health

# Tiered vaccination roll out

## Currently scheduling:

- Individuals 75 years of age and older

## Scheduling next (likely early February):

- Individuals 65-74 years of age

## Scheduling information coming soon (likely late February/early March):

- Frontline essential workers: Individuals who work in select sectors AND are at risk for work-related exposure to COVID-19 because their work-related duties must be performed on-site in proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers
- Individuals with comorbidities that put them at risk of severe COVID

**Congregate settings:** Will be phased in throughout Phase 1b



# Updates on vaccination rollout

- Governor will announce updates during his press conferences and press releases
  - Press releases: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Governors-Press-Releases>
- The CT COVID-19 Vaccine: Phases and Eligibility website will also communicate updates
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination---Phases#phase1b>
    - Bookmark this page

# Essential workforce sectors

## Childcare providers fall under the sector Education and child-care workers

This is the list of sectors within the essential workforce sectors:

- Healthcare personnel
- First responders
- Agricultural workers, including farmworkers
- Food service and restaurants
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- Manufacturing workers
- Grocery store and pharmacy workers
- Public transit workers
- Food banks and meal delivery services for the elderly
- **Education and child care workers**
- Solid waste and wastewater workers
- Inspectors working on site in the above locations
- Frontline public and social services

# Process for vaccination registering

- Current process to register/schedule for vaccination can be found on the CT COVID-19 Vaccine: Phases and Eligibility website
  - <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination---Phases#phase1b>

- Process may change over time to improve and make more efficient.

## Scheduling Options



### Schedule through the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS)

[Click here to enroll in VAMS](#)

*Appointments available this week at participating locations.*

**VAMS is the Vaccine Administration Management System** – an online scheduling portal that allows individuals with an email address to create an account, log-in, and search for a vaccine clinic near them. Many providers can be accessed through the VAMS scheduling system including:

**Trinity Health of New England**, multiple locations including Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford  
Griffin Hospital, including in Shelton  
Nuvance Health  
Stamford Hospital  
Bristol Hospital  
Local Health Departments  
Federally Qualified Health Centers

[Click here for tips and more information about how to use VAMS](#)



### Schedule directly through a participating provider.

*Appointments available this week at participating locations.*

**Over 100 healthcare providers across the State are currently offering direct scheduling:**  
**UConn Health:** Clinic locations in Farmington, CT  
**Hartford Healthcare:** Several locations across the state  
**Yale New Haven Health:** Several locations across the state  
**Walgreens:** Several locations across the state

**All locations require pre-scheduling and registration – no walk-ins will be allowed.**

More locations are coming soon, and a map of all locations and more information will be available in the coming weeks.





# Business registration so employees can be vaccinated

- Early December, the Office of Early Childhood provided DPH with contact information for their licensed providers
- If you were licensed after December 1, 2020 or a Youth Camp that was not operating at that time please continue to monitor the Phases website to know when Phase 1b opens up to your sector and how to register your business

## **If we continue with VAMS:**

- Providers will receive an email from DPH asking for you to complete a DPH Submission Form so you can be sent the information to create an account
  - **Complete** the information
    - You will receive a confirmation email letting you know the information has been received at DPH

# Business registration so employees can be vaccinated

## If we continue with the VAMS system:

- Your submitted information will be uploaded into VAMS when your organization meets the criteria for vaccination
- While you wait: Roster your employees (first name, last name, email) – OEC has more information on this

## Once your information is uploaded into VAMS (if this is the system used):

- You will receive a registration email from CDC [no-reply@mail.vams.cdc.gov](mailto:no-reply@mail.vams.cdc.gov)
  - Click on the link within that email to **Create** your account
- When asked, via email, **upload** the roster of employees
  - Employees will receive an email to register in VAMS and schedule a vaccination appointment

# Quick recap – if VAMS is used

- 4 emails
  1. DPH request for information so you can create your account in VAMS
  2. Confirmation that information was received
  3. Register in VAMS to create account (CDC [no-reply@mail.vams.cdc.gov](mailto:no-reply@mail.vams.cdc.gov))
  4. Upload employee roster
- Timeline on emails
  - 1<sup>st</sup> email - **still being established**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> email – almost immediately after submitting the form
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> email – will receive 24-48 hours after information is uploaded into VAMS
  - 4<sup>th</sup> email – when the Governor makes the decision to vaccinate frontline essential workers



# Employer coordinator in VAMS

- Responsible for developing/coordinating the upload of the employee roster
- Only one employer coordinator per business entity
  - If you have more than one location, please put all employees on one roster
- Only staff should be included on the roster (do not include household members)
- Remember:
  - Vaccine is for workers who work in the identified sectors AND are at risk for work-related exposure to COVID-19 because their work-related duties must be performed on-site in proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers.

VAMS Employer Coordinator User Manual: click [here](#)

Thank you!

Questions: [DPH.COVID19@ct.gov](mailto:DPH.COVID19@ct.gov)