



COVID-19 Vinalhaven Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

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COVID-19 Update 12-15-20

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

Today a number of high-risk Mainers—healthcare workers and first responders—were the first to receive one of two doses of the Pfizer vaccine in Phase 1a of Maine's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. The Plan calls for vaccine doses that arrive in the state over the next several months to be allocated in the following manner:

Phase 1a *December 14, 2020 – TBD*

- High-risk workers in health care facilities
- First responders

Phase 1b *TBD*

- People of all ages with comorbid and underlying conditions that put them at significantly higher risk
- Older adults living in congregate or overcrowded settings

Phase 2 *TBD*

- Critical risk workers: workers who are both in industries essential to functioning of society and at substantially high risk of exposure
- People of all ages with comorbid and underlying conditions that put them at moderately high risk
- All older adults not included in Phase 1
- Teachers and school staff
- People in prisons, jails, detention centers, and similar facilities, and staff who work in such settings

Phase 3 *TBD*

- Children
- Young adults
- Workers in industries essential to the functioning of society and at increased risk of exposure not included in Phase 1 or 2

Phase 4 *TBD*

- Everyone residing in Maine who did not receive the vaccine in previous phases

How rapidly distribution and vaccination can occur will depend entirely on the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses manufactured. To date, only Pfizer has received emergency

authorization to produce and distribute the vaccine. Moderna, a biotech company in Massachusetts, is likely to receive emergency authorization from the FDA this week and could begin distributing their COVID-19 vaccine as early as next week. If other companies receive the same emergency authorization, vaccination schedules could move quickly. Conversely, if Pfizer and Moderna remain the only sources of the vaccine in the US, it could be well into 2021 before Phase 4 of the Plan can be implemented.

On Vinalhaven, ICMS and First Responders will be administering the vaccine in accordance with the Phases of Maine's Vaccination Plan and based on the number of doses received. Therefore, we urge patience and request that you wait until you receive notification from your medical provider before calling to request the vaccine. If you do not have a medical provider, watch for public announcements from ICMS that will indicate when, where, and to whom vaccines will be administered.

A critical factor we need to stress is that in the near-term, a COVID-19 vaccine is not a substitute for essential public health actions—mask wearing, hand washing, physical distancing. According to Maine CDC Director, Dr. Nirav Shah, approximately 65–80% of the population will need to be vaccinated before cases are reduced. Therefore the public health behaviors we've been practicing since March will need to remain in place for some time in order to curb the ongoing increase in positive cases.

To learn more about the COVID-19 Vaccine and Maine's Vaccination Plan, go to www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html and respectively,

www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/documents/covid-19-vaccination-plan-maine-interim-draft.pdf