



1-18-2021 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) COVID-19 UPDATE

Maine, like the rest of the country, is seeing the aftermath of people gathering together during the holidays. Cases are surging, and tragically, hospitalizations and deaths are also increasing.

The Public Health Team has been fielding questions about the vaccine—when will people on Vinalhaven receive theirs and when can we “get back to normal.” We urge everyone to continue being vigilant. Now is not the time let down our guard. We must continue the safety practices we know can keep us from contracting and transmitting the virus.

ICMS has been working with Maine CDC to understand recent changes to the State’s vaccine protocols. Below the an updated summary of vaccine Phases. Maine, like many other states, has closely followed the recommendations of the U.S. CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which proposes vaccinating people in a phased-approach given the limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines. Maine is currently in Phase 1a of its vaccine distribution strategy.

Vaccine Updates

Phase 1a December 2020 through January 2021

- Health Care Personnel Needed to Preserve Critical Health Care Services
- Residents and Staff Of Long-Term Care Facilities
- Other Patient-Facing Health Care Personnel
- Public Safety Personnel
- Critical COVID-19 Response Personnel

Phase 1b February through April

- People Aged 65 and Older: Given the limited number of vaccines, people aged 70 and older will be vaccinated first in Phase 1b. Maine will then move to residents aged 65 to 69.
- Adults With High-Risk Medical Conditions: Individuals whose pre-existing health conditions put them at greater risk of hospitalization or death from COVID-19. The U.S. CDC has identified such conditions; which Maine health care experts and clinicians will review. Depending on the size of this group, individuals may be vaccinated in stages, for example, starting with older high-risk people or people with two or more pre-existing conditions.

Vinalhaven Case Info March – January 16, 2021

Known Active Confirmed
Positive – 0
Total Known Confirmed
Positive – 5
Total Recovered – 5

For state and county data, go
to [knox-hub-knoxme.hub.
arcgis.com](https://knox-hub-knoxme.hub.arcgis.com)

- Front Line Essential Workers (to be determined): The U.S. CDC advisory committee has recommended that the following essential workers be considered front line: food and agricultural workers, Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, those who work in the education sector (teachers, and support staff), and daycare workers. The State of Maine will review this list and make determinations as this phase approaches.

Phase 1c May and June

- Other Essential Workers (to be determined)

Phase 2 June and Beyond

- People ages 16 to 64 who are not already eligible in a previous phase.

Currently, the vaccine supply being distributed to states is limited and inconsistent. To date, Maine has only received enough doses to vaccinate 7 percent of residents against COVID-19. ICMS has administered a first dose of the vaccine to some individuals who qualify under Phase 1a, as well as Eldercare residents and staff. Additional vaccine for 1a will be distributed the week of January 25th, but for now, vaccine for Phase 1b is not likely to arrive until the end of April. How rapidly distribution and vaccination can occur depends on the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses manufactured.

On Vinalhaven, ICMS and First Responders will be administering the vaccine in accordance with the Phases of the Vaccination Plan and based on the number of doses received. 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.

Go to www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines

to learn more about the COVID-19 Vaccine and Maine’s Vaccination Plan.