

**NJ Department of Human Services  
Division of Developmental Disabilities**

**DIVISION UPDATE 01-14-2021**

Hello Division Constituents and Community Partners,

We are pleased to share that effective immediately the New Jersey Department of Health has expanded its list of individuals who are eligible to receive the COVID vaccine, as follows:

- **Residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)** and staff in congregate residential settings (group homes and supervised apartments) **are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1A**. Please review the information on [Who is eligible for vaccination in New Jersey?](#)
- Both (a) individuals aged 65 and older, and (b) individuals ages 16-64 with medical conditions, [as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), that increase the risk of severe illness from the virus **are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine**.

Residential providers may begin scheduling vaccine appointments for residents. Individuals who fall into other eligible groups described above, or their caregivers, can also begin scheduling their appointments. Please review [Where, how, and when can I get vaccinated?](#) for registration and scheduling information.

Information about vaccine options for healthcare workers, including IDD direct support professionals and self-directed employees, was distributed previously by the Division and is available on the [NJ Department of Human Services COVID-19 Information Hub](#).

It is important to remember that, at this time, the national and state vaccine supplies remain *limited*. As with other vaccinations, providers must obtain informed consent from residents or their guardian(s). To assist in this, individuals or their guardian(s) should be encouraged to review the Emergency Use Authorization Fact Sheets for the currently available vaccines, [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#). Please see [COVID-19 Vaccine Locations for Eligible Recipients](#) for a frequently-updated list of available vaccine sites.

We also want to call your attention to new [COVID-19 Vaccine Educational Resources](#) developed by The Boggs Center to assist people with IDD to better understand the COVID-19 vaccine and what to expect during the vaccine appointment.

We appreciate your support, patience and advocacy during this unprecedented vaccine campaign. If you have other questions about COVID-19 vaccines in New Jersey, please visit [COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

Thank you.

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