



## **Kentucky COVID-19 Vaccine Phases Guidance**

### **January 27, 2021**

All states, including Kentucky, are distributing the COVID-19 vaccine to its population in phases due to very limited available quantities. Through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the federal government provided conceptual and high-level guidance to provide the vaccine for those at most risk for harm from COVID-19 and/or those upon whom society particularly depends for certain services. ACIP did not, however, explicitly define every single person by every possible characteristic – a fundamentally impossible task. Additionally, the federal government has thus far only provided somewhat detailed guidance for phases 1a – 1c.

To provide clarity and to promote efficient deployment of the vaccine, Kentucky has defined all of its vaccination phases at a high level. Kentucky’s phases derive from federal guidance issued by the ACIP and are as follows:

- Phase 1a: Residents and staff of long-term care and assisted living facilities  
Healthcare personnel
- Phase 1b: First Responders  
Anyone 70 or older  
K-12 personnel
- Phase 1c: Anyone 60 or older  
Anyone 16 or older with a medical condition listed by the CDC as proven to be associated with severe COVID-19 disease  
Frontline and other essential workers as defined by the CDC
- Phase 2: Anyone age 40 or older
- Phase 3: Anyone age 16 or older
- Phase 4: Persons under the age of 16 if the vaccine is approved for this age group

While striving to follow the phase guidance above, in order to maximize the number of persons protected by immunization, Kentucky has also set a goal to administer 90% or more of all vaccine doses received in the state within seven days of arrival.

All Kentuckians should review the phases above and wait to be vaccinated in the phase that best represents describes them. Doing so enables those most at risk for COVID-19 to receive the vaccine as quickly as possible. Vaccine administration sites will do their best to follow the phasing schedule. At times, persons from later phases may be vaccinated earlier than anticipated as sites strive to administer at least 90% of the vaccine they receive within seven days of receiving it. If a person has clearly violated the current vaccination phase and it is not yet their time, they may be turned away from scheduling a vaccination or receiving a vaccination on-site until the phase for which they are eligible is reached.



As of **February 1, 2021**, persons in **phases 1a – 1c will be eligible** to schedule vaccination as supply permits. Persons over 70 will still be prioritized. To assist persons in determining if they may be eligible to schedule immunization on or after Feb. 1, we provide the following illustrative, not exhaustive, list to assist:

- Personal care homes staff
- Behavioral health/Rehabilitation facilities staff
- Acute care facility staff
- Laboratory staff processing COVID-19 specimens
- Private intermediate care facilities for individuals with development disabilities staff
- Community residential rehabilitation services staff
- Dialysis centers staff
- Home healthcare workers/attendants
- Community group homes staff
- Adult day training facilities staff
- Clinical personnel in school settings or correction facilities staff
- Mortuary care personnel
- Residential treatment facilities for adults staff
- Older adult protective services staff
- Contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility
- Community health workers
- Community Mental Health Centers staff
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities staff
- Long-term acute care facilities staff
- Domestic violence shelters staff
- Psychiatric hospitals staff
- Dental offices/staff
- Healthcare services students
- Homeless shelters staff
- Healthcare personnel in clinical settings
- Technicians/Therapists
- Persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed in healthcare settings (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry and engineering and facilities management)
- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder treatment staff
- Emergency medical services personnel
- Phlebotomists
- Drivers participating in medically necessary services
- Adult protective services staff
- Pharmacists/staff
- Federally Qualified Health Center staff
- Medical assistance transportation program drivers
- Child protective services staff



- Social workers
- Rural Health Clinic staff
- Physician offices/staff
- Outpatient medical/healthcare facility staff
- Hospice workers/Urgent care staff
- Persons aged 60 and older
- Fire and rescue personnel
- First responders
- Emergency management staff
- Law enforcement
- Public Health COVID-19 emergency response staff
- Correctional center staff
- K-12 school staff
- Pre-K educational staff
- Childcare providers
- Post-secondary education staff
- Community and technical college staff
- Fire and wildlife officers
- US Postal Workers
- Foodservice personnel
- Food and agriculture sector (meat and other food processing facility workers)
- Other service providers for vulnerable populations (e.g., supports community living, Salvation Army, Red Cross, etc.)
- Veterinary services/staff
- Drivers of high occupancy vehicles (more than 6 people)
- Daycare workers
- Water and wastewater utilities
- Legal
- Airport/Train security staff
- Workers in transportation and logistics
- Grocery store workers
- Finance workers
- All clergy and faith leaders
- Transportation network companies
- Communications media workers
- Manufacturing workers
- Housing construction workers
- Cybersecurity and infrastructure workers
- Public transit workers
- Information and technology communications workers
- Energy personnel



Also eligible, regardless of occupational role, are persons aged 16 – 64 with medical conditions listed by CDC as proven to be associated with severe COVID-19 illness. As of December 23, 2020, this list of medical conditions is as follows:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions (e.g., heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index (BMI) of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but less than 40)
- Severe obesity (BMI of 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Kentucky will mirror any subsequent updates provided to the list by the CDC.

### **Phases 2 & 3**

It is not currently known when these phases will be eligible for scheduling.

### **Phase 4**

Phase 4 includes all persons under the age of 16 for whom no COVID-19 vaccine is currently authorized by the FDA. As more information becomes available in younger children and teens, the age-related recommendations will be adjusted.

Kentucky is committed to making COVID-19 immunization available to all Kentuckians as quickly and efficiently as vaccine quantities allow. This phased plan is our best effort to do so as fairly as possible.

For more information, the [kycovid19.ky.gov](https://kycovid19.ky.gov) website provides the most up-to-date information related to vaccines, Kentucky's distribution plan, and the vaccine phases. It will be updated Monday – Friday with Kentucky vaccine information.