

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease)

CASES ARE RISING.
ACT NOW!



When Vaccine is Limited, Who Gets Vaccinated First?

Updated Dec. 16, 2020 [Print](#)

Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States will be limited at first, CDC recommends that initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine be allocated to healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents. CDC [made this recommendation](#) on December 3, 2020, and based it on recommendations from the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#), an independent panel of medical and public health experts.

The recommendations were made with these goals in mind:

- Decrease death and serious disease as much as possible.
- Preserve functioning of society.
- Reduce the extra burden COVID-19 is having on people already facing disparities.

Healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities should be offered the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines

Healthcare personnel include all paid and unpaid people who serve in healthcare settings and have potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

Learn more about [why it's important that healthcare personnel get vaccinated.](#)

Residents of long-term care facilities are defined as adults who live in facilities that provide a variety of services, including medical and personal care, to people who are unable to live independently.

Learn more about [why it's important that residents of long-term care facilities get vaccinated.](#)

As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. As vaccine supply increases but remains limited, ACIP will expand the groups recommended for vaccination.

Related pages

[Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)

[Role of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in CDC's Vaccine Recommendations](#)

[Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities](#)

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Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)