



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stay Healthy. Stay Informed.

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COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH PLANS FOR VACCINATING THE 70+ POPULATION AND FRONTLINE ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Yesterday, Governor Polis announced major changes to the state's phased vaccination approach, adding the 70+ age-group to Phase 1B and shifting frontline essential workers from Phase 2 into Phase 1B. "We are revising our staffing plans and preparing scheduling options to make sure that the Clear Creek community knows when and how they can schedule their vaccinations," says Christine Crouse, the County's COVID-19 Public Information Officer. The county will notify the public as plans are finalized for each phase using social media postings, the county website, newspaper and radio announcements, virtual public meetings, and emails and phone calls as needed.

Currently, the county is receiving the Moderna vaccine, which requires two doses, 28 days apart.

Explains County Public Health Director Dr. Timothy Ryan, "Our goal is to get the Clear Creek community vaccinated as quickly and safely as possible. We are still conducting testing and contact tracing, and will continue these services as we begin offering the highly anticipated vaccine to our county population."

The county's original priority for Phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccine was to maintain the county's ability to care for and protect the health and safety of all Clear Creek County residents by focusing on first responders. According to the County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Olivia Watson, "Thanks to the dedication of our small yet resilient staff, we quickly and efficiently met our original objective, and are now pivoting to meet the new distribution goal. We will keep scheduling vaccines until all people that fall under Phase 1 who want the vaccine in Clear Creek County have received both doses." Although Clear Creek does not have long-term care facilities as defined by the state for Phase 1, Watson reports, "We are coordinating with our senior centers, schools and other frontline essential work sectors, and are developing our plan for people age 70 and older as quickly as possible."

"Yesterday's changes to the guidance impact a significant portion of Clear Creek's population," says Office of Emergency Management Director Suzanne Boccia, "For the past 10 months we have been asking the community to stay at home as much as possible and social distance when they do go out, and over all they have been doing a great job. Now we are asking them to come out to get vaccinated, and we are making sure the entire vaccination process is as safe as possible for those receiving the vaccine." This includes having enough parking and specific appointment timeslots, and planning for winter mountain weather. The county is also looking at options for individuals who may not have transportation.

Phase 2 is expected to take place in the spring of 2021 and Phase 3 for the general public is expected in the summer of 2021. For information on the phases, visit: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/vaccine/vaccine-for-coloradans>

Until the majority of the population is vaccinated, the best way to keep ourselves and our communities healthy is to:

- Stay home as much as possible, do not travel, and avoid in-person social gatherings.
- When in public, wear a mask, keep your distance from others, and practice good hygiene.



Stay Healthy. Stay Informed. Stay Open.

<https://www.clearcreekcounty.us/covid19> | Facebook: ClearCreekCountyCOgov

Join our next monthly VIRTUAL TOWN HALL on January 14th, 6pm-7pm, via Zoom or Facebook

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