

# VA COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Veterans by Distribution Phase

VA followed guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop its COVID-19 vaccination plan. VA's plan is based on five core principles: safety, maximizing the benefit of the vaccine, equity, fairness and transparency. VA continues to prioritize vaccination based on its plan and availability of vaccine.

Facilities are offering vaccine to persons in the next phases when they have made good progress through prior phases. VA issued guidance on December 30, 2020, encouraging local flexibility in order to maximize COVID-19 vaccine access and efficiency, as well as limit potential waste.

■ Current position



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Veterans residing in VA community living centers (CLC) and spinal cord units (SCID)</li> <li>■ Veterans residing in other long term/ congregate settings without access to COVID-19 vaccine</li> <li>■ Cemetery workers</li> <li>■ Veterans who are health care personnel</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Veterans age 75+</li> <li>■ Veterans who are essential frontline workers</li> <li>■ Homeless Veterans</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hemodialysis patients</li> <li>■ Solid organ transplant patients or patients who are listed for transplant</li> <li>■ Chemotherapy patients (receiving chemotherapy infusion in a clinic/ hospital setting)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Veterans age 65-74</li> <li>■ Veterans younger than 65 with high-risk conditions as defined by CDC</li> <li>■ Veterans who are essential workers not in 1b, as defined by CDC</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All Veterans receiving health care through VA eligible for vaccination</li> </ul> |
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Caregivers enrolled in VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers are eligible for vaccination during the same phase as the Veteran, for all phases.



# GLOSSARY of TERMS

## **High-risk conditions**

Phase 1b and 1c includes people with one or more underlying conditions that put them at increased risk for severe illness if infected with COVID. This list of these conditions can be found on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>.

## **Congregate living**

An environment where individuals reside in an enclosed space and where they are interacting with a high volume of people over an extended period of time and not able to consistently maintain physical distance.

For the purposes of the vaccine allocation guidance, long-term care facilities are defined as community-based, congregate living settings where individuals who are unable to reside independently and have chronic health conditions receive care, supervision or assistance.

## **Essential frontline workers**

Individuals working in an industry that maintains critical infrastructure for social and economic systems in our country.

## **Other essential workers not in 1b**

CDC developed a list of essential workers to help government and private agencies plan how to allocate COVID-19 vaccines initially when there is a limited supply. The list is found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/categories-essential-workers.html>