

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

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Thu 1/21/2021 12:07 PM

Dear Colleagues – Although California has received the two Federally-approved COVID-19 vaccines, distribution and administration throughout the State has gotten off to a slow start. The following information is what NOCCCD knows as of today—in this fluid environment status changes rapidly. (Please note: All information in this letter applies **ONLY** to Orange County. All employees who live and/or work in Orange County are eligible, but if employees live in another county, they may access their own county's eligibility.)

With the limited supply of vaccines, the County of Orange is following the State of California's guidance for access to COVID-19 vaccines by utilizing a phased approach to administering available vaccines. The County of Orange has announced the following Phases and Tiers:

### **Phase 1A: January 2021 ability**

- Healthcare workers
- Long-term care residents
- Law enforcement working in high-risk settings
- Adults age 65 or older

### **Phase 1B Tier One: Estimated February/March 2021 availability**

Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:

- Education and childcare
- Emergency services
- Food and agriculture

### **Phase 1B Tier Two: Estimated February/March 2021 availability**

Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:

- Transportation and logistics
- Industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services
- Critical manufacturing
- Congregate setting with outbreak risk: Incarcerated and Homeless

As you can see, the education sector is scheduled for Phase 1B, Tier One. Our best information from the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) is that higher education employees will be eligible for the vaccination sometime in February or March.

**Important to note:** There is no way to jump phases or tiers to get a vaccine earlier! Everyone must be "eligible" to get the vaccine, and that eligibility is based on proof of your position in the phased approach.

### **Ways to Get the Vaccine**

Currently, there are only two ways to get the vaccine in Orange County—either through an appointment with your primary care doctor or by an appointment at an Orange County SuperPOD location (like Disneyland). If you think you're now eligible for the vaccine (based on the phases/tiers above) please call your primary care doctor or register at Othena.com for an appointment. Othena is a highly-secure website and app that matches users with vaccine providers, sets up appointments, and provides you with a Vaccination Passport as proof of vaccination. The only way to get an appointment at a SuperPOD location is to sign up with Othena.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccinations, please go to: <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/> or <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>.

Please continue to keep yourself and your family safe!

Cheryl

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