



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 Garfield Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Office of Emergency Management

Meghan L. Manke
Emergency Management
Director

PRESS RELEASE

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Last week, Governor Lamont announced that CT residents over the age of 75 are now eligible to register for COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

During Phase 1b, 1.3 million CT residents will become eligible to receive the vaccine. The State only receives about 46,000 vaccines each week. In order to ensure that the most vulnerable population (75+) has access to the vaccine, the State has prioritized this group as the first to be eligible under Phase 1b. Due to the dramatic increase in the demand for vaccine, without a matching increase in the supply, we anticipate the additional 1b populations to be deemed eligible gradually over the next several months.

Cases of COVID-19 are still climbing in our community. While vaccination is a promising step in the right direction, we want to reiterate the importance of taking preventative measures to slow the spread:

- *Wear a mask* (cover nose and mouth) to protect both yourself, and those around you
- Stay at least *6 feet* from anyone who does not live with you
- *Avoid crowds or large groups*; the more people you are around, the greater your risk for exposure
- Remember: the vaccine takes some time before it is effective; you can still spread COVID-19 to others, even if you have already been vaccinated.

If you are over the age of 75, you qualify for Phase 1b, and are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Review the information below to see your available options.

Scheduling an appointment: *These options are currently only open to people aged 75+.*

- Make an appointment **online** through [UConn Health](#): Clinic locations in Farmington, CT
- Make an appointment **online** through [Hartford Healthcare](#): Several locations across the state
- Register through the **online Vaccine Administration Management System** (VAMS)
- If you are unable to schedule online, you may also schedule on the **phone** by calling the CT COVID Vaccine Appointment Assist Line at **877-918-2224**. The line will take calls Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will offer a call-back option when all contact specialists are busy serving other callers. The team will aim to return calls as soon as possible, with the goal of same-day response.

Important:

- If you have already heard from your medical provider about receiving the vaccine, you do not need to do anything else.
- Please, do not reach out to your doctor/medical provider about the vaccine if they have not contacted you.
- Given the currently scarce supply of vaccine, it will take time for all individuals in Phase 1b to receive the vaccine. While you may be able to register now, it may take time to be able to schedule an appointment. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

The State plans to update this information regularly. Please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination---75-and-older> for additional information.

Meghan Manke

Meghan L. Manke, Emergency Management Director