

From: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq> (Accessed 9 March, 2021).

Covid Vaccine Priority Groups: 1a, 1b, 1b Plus

Phase 1a Priority Groups

Health care workers, as well as residents and personnel in long-term congregate care facilities where high rates of transmission and outbreaks can occur.

Health care personnel

- Hospital settings
- Non-hospital health care
 - Medical outpatient clinics
 - Public health clinics
 - Local Health Department Points of Distribution (PODs)
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
 - Home health care workers
 - Home health aides

Long-term care facility staff and all residents

- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Severe Mental Illness
- State-run Veterans' Homes
- State-operated Centers for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- State-operated Mental Health Centers
- Residential Treatment Centers for Substance Abuse

Other identified congregate care staff and all residents

- Continuing Care Residential Facilities
- Residential Care Adult Homes
- Supportive Housing for Seniors
- Supportive Residential Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

- Supportive Residential Facilities for Persons with Severe Mental Illness
- Community Integrated Living Arrangements
- Supervised Residential Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- Supervised Residential Facilities for Persons with Severe Mental Illness

Phase 1b Priority Groups

Persons who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and frontline workers with higher risk of exposure due to their inability to work remotely and proximity to coworkers or the public.

Age 65 or older

Frontline essential worker (Below are examples of frontline workers within the eligible categories for Phase 1b)

- **First responders**
 - Fire, law enforcement, 911 worker, security personnel, school officer
- **Education**
 - K-12 teacher, school administrator, student support staff, student aide, day care worker and center-based child care provider, home visiting provider, early intervention therapists, Head Start/Early Head Start provider, Preschool for All provider
- **Food and agriculture**
 - Processing plants, veterinary health, livestock services, animal care
- **Manufacturing**
 - Industrial production of goods for distribution to retail, wholesale, or other manufacturers
- **Corrections workers and incarcerated individuals**
 - Correctional officer and staff, jail officer and staff, juvenile facility staff, a worker providing in-person support or services, incarcerated individuals
- **U. S. Postal Service worker**

- **Public transit worker**
 - Flight crew, bus driver, train conductor, taxi driver, para-transit driver, in-person support, ride sharing service driver
- **Grocery store worker**
 - Bagger, cashier, stocker, pickup, customer service
- **Shelters and adult day care staff**
 - Homeless shelter, women's shelter, adult day/drop-in program, sheltered workshop

Phase 1b Plus Priority Groups

Persons with specific health-complicating conditions or status.

Eligible Conditions

- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Pulmonary Diseases
- Smoking
- Heart Conditions
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Cancer
- Solid Organ Transplant
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Pregnancy

Persons with a Disability (Not otherwise covered in previous categories.)

- After adjusted COVID-19 mortality rates by age, the CDC found that Hispanic and Black Americans were dying at a rate of almost 3 times that of White Americans.
- In Illinois, the average age of COVID-19 death is 81 for white residents, 72 for Black residents and 68 for Latino residents.
- While the highest count of COVID-19 deaths is among those 75 years and older, minority populations are dying at younger ages. Given those facts, vaccine is being made available to those age 65 and older.
- Additional information on confirmed and potential priority groups can be found here:

- **Health care personnel** continue to be on the front line of the nation's fight against this deadly pandemic. By providing critical care to those infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, many health care personnel are at high risk of being exposed to and getting sick with COVID-19. Health care personnel who get COVID-19 can also spread the virus to patients seeking care for other medical conditions that, in turn, increase patients' risk for severe COVID-19 illness. Early vaccine access is critical to ensuring the health and safety of this essential workforce of approximately 21 million people across the USA, protecting not only them but also their patients, communities, and the broader health of our country.
- **People with certain [underlying medical conditions](#)** are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness, regardless of their age. Severe illness means that the person with COVID-19 may require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe, or that they are at increased risk of dying. Early vaccine access is essential to ensuring the health and safety of this population that is disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- **Among adults**, the risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19 increases with age, with [older adults](#) considered to be at the highest risk. Early vaccine access is vital to help protect this population that has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- **Workers in essential and critical industries** are considered part of America's critical infrastructure, as defined by the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency](#). Current data show that many of these workers are at increased risk for getting COVID-19. Early vaccine access is to protect them in order to maintain the essential services they provide U.S. communities.