



January 4, 2021

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**Lincoln County Health Department to deploy Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**

**Lincolnton, NC** - A tested, safe and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies are currently limited and will continue to be for the next few months. In order to manage the initial supply and ensure opportunity is given to the appropriate priority groups, the Lincoln County Health Department will be providing the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine in a rollout process to Lincoln County residents. Currently, we are providing vaccines under the current schedule:

**Phase 1a:**

- a) Frontline health care workers who are working directly with patients and the accompanying staff responsible for sanitation and maintenance in those areas and are not currently under a hospital system vaccination schedule. **Vaccination appointments are open now.**
- b) Employees and residents of congregate living facilities who are not currently enrolled under the state's contract with CVS or Walgreens. **Vaccination appointments are open now.**

**Phase 1b:** (Phase 1b is currently separated in to descending priority groups)

- a) Group 1 – Anyone 75 years or older. **Vaccination appointments will begin January 6, 2021.**
- b) Group 2 – Health care workers and frontline essential workers 50 years or older. The CDC defines frontline essential workers as first responders (e.g., firefighters and police officers), corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff members, child care workers). **Vaccination appointments not open at this time.**

- c) Group 3 - Health care workers and frontline essential workers of any age.  
**Vaccination appointments not open at this time.**

The vaccination schedule for Phase 1b, Group 2, is expected to begin as early as February.

Be advised that the Covid vaccine cannot be administered to anyone currently sick with fever and/or respiratory symptoms; has received any type of vaccine in the previous 14 days; or, has received passive antibody therapy for treatment of Covid-19 in the past 90 days. In addition, persons with any type of bleeding disorder or taking blood thinning medications must have an order from their PCP in order to receive a vaccine.

For the many residents that are not identified in the current rollout priority, more information will be provided at a future date for target groups and when appointment accessibility will be open. Please be patient and call our Covid-19 Vaccination Schedule Information and Appointment line at **704-479-2202**. The LCHD will be taking appointments for the current priority groups **Monday through Friday each week from 9am until 4pm**. Due to the high volume of calls and inquiries about vaccination availability we ask that residents use our information line and press release updates prior to calling the health department. Also note that due to the initial volume of calls, the line(s) may be busy on calls and it may be necessary to call back.

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