

We have fielded many questions and concerns about the vaccine so I'd like to provide an update as of right now today. Things are changing rapidly and local policies vary but this seems to be accurate currently. We will continue to try to provide answers and address your concerns as quickly as possible. Please enjoy the holidays and we should all be immunized sometime soon. Consider that President-Elect Biden just received his vaccine yesterday, so please be patient as the greatest public health immunization effort in history is unfolding before our eyes.

Key Points:

- 20M health care personnel in all capacities; 3M long term care residents and staff = 23M vaccines required equaling 46M actual doses in all.
  - It will take time for this to occur and dermatology is not considered high priority
- Prioritization status has been clearly described by CDC and healthy dermatology providers/staff without comorbidities are generally considered Phase 2, although some would argue 1b if doing significant work around face. Although note that dentists are Phase 2 and they would seem to be more at risk than us, even Mohs surgeons. 3 options at present:
  - any hospital/health system/ACO network that provides vaccines routinely to children and are already administratively established (not just flu vaccine that any clinic can order) is emailing all workers and assigning them a tier and opening them to the process of scheduling their shot in the appropriate time window for their priority
  - local health departments – you will be asked to verify position and role and these departments determine your priority level. Note this may not be applied consistently so do not be surprised by county to county differences.
  - personal Primary Care Provider – can assess your position and health condition(s) and recommend you for immunization accordingly.
- QualDerm cannot leverage our size or scale to assist because we have no clinics on the national immunization service list and cannot become a distribution site or order vaccines at present.
- Everything is changing rapidly so we are constantly updating our information and guidance. We appreciate any feedback or suggestions to [health@qualderm.com](mailto:health@qualderm.com).
- Your local market RVPs and Operations Directors and lead physicians are also working hard to obtain local information for your clinics.
- We do not anticipate QDP staff to be eligible (unless there are extenuating health conditions) until about mid-January although we know many have friends or colleagues in seemingly less risky occupations having already received vaccine. We empathize with your frustration but EVERY LOCAL SITUATION IS DIFFERENT and we cannot control all these variables, including who receives how many doses and what the community uptake will be and how the hospital distributes.
- In the meantime, *control what you can* which is be safe, avoid crowds over the holidays, keep your 6 foot distance, wear your mask, wash your hands, and report any and all symptoms to your supervisor and stay home if sick.

Thank you.

Dr A

# COVID-19 Vaccinations: Those most at risk get it first.



A tested, safe and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. Independent state and federal public health advisory committees have determined that the best way to fight COVID-19 is to start first with vaccinations for those most at risk, reaching more people as the vaccine supply increases from January to June. Keep practicing the 3W's—wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands—until everyone has a chance to vaccinate.



**1a**  
**Health care workers fighting COVID-19 & Long-Term Care**

Every health care worker at high risk for exposure to COVID-19—doctors, nurses, and all who interact and care for patients with COVID-19, including those who clean areas used by patients, and those giving vaccines to these workers.

Long-Term Care staff and residents—people in skilled nursing facilities and in adult, family and group homes.

**1b**  
**Adults at highest risk of severe illness and those at highest risk for exposure**

Adults with two or more chronic conditions that put them at risk of severe illness as defined by the CDC, including conditions like cancer, COPD, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease and Type 2 diabetes, among others.

Adults at high risk of exposure including essential frontline workers (police, food processing, teachers), health care workers, and those living in prisons, homeless shelters, migrant and fishery housing with 2+ chronic conditions.

Those working in prisons, jails and homeless shelters (no chronic conditions requirement).

**2**  
**Adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness**

Essential frontline workers, health care workers, and those living in prisons, homeless shelters or migrant and fishery housing.

Adults 65+  
Adults under 65 with one chronic condition that puts them at risk of severe illness as defined by the CDC.

**3**  
**Students and critical industry workers**

College and university students.

K-12 students when there is an approved vaccine for children.

Those employed in jobs that are critical to society and at lower risk of exposure.

