

**Maine Vaccination Plan:
Eligible COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure Personnel and Long-Term Care Facility
Personnel and Residents
March 4, 2021**

The Maine vaccination plan's initial eligibility group (previously called Phase 1a) included workers who were critical to COVID-19 response as well as residents and staff of long-term care and assisted living facilities. Sufficient vaccine doses were available by February 2021 to vaccinate all eligible individuals in this group.

This guidance clarifies who remains eligible for vaccination.

Health Care Personnel: Health care personnel includes personnel who work in a health care setting with patients on a regular basis (e.g., each day of work). The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) defines "Health Care Personnel" as *"paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials."* Maine DHHS is defining "health care settings" based on examples in [ACIP 1a Guidance](#):

- Hospitals
- Long-term care facilities
- Outpatient clinics/physician practices/dental practices
- Home health care
- Pharmacies
- Emergency medical services
- Public health settings
- Schools nurses/school health clinics

To determine whether health care personnel who do not otherwise meet eligibility due to their age are eligible under this group for vaccination, vaccine providers should ask the following screening questions; and they should limit eligibility only to those individuals who are Maine residents and answer "yes" to both questions:

1. Do you work in-person in a health care setting? (i.e. one of the above settings)
2. Do you have direct contact with patients, or the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials?

Of note, health care personnel eligibility does NOT include the following:

- Administrative personnel (e.g., admission, billing, information technology, receptionists, staff registering people or providing security at vaccine clinics)
- Clinical or other medical personnel who are not patient facing (e.g., clinicians who provide care via telehealth)
- Support staff who do not have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials (e.g. food service staff)
- Personal support staff and others who do not work in health care settings
- Personnel who have potential for exposure to patients or patient materials that are at low risk for COVID-19 transmission given limited evidence for infection through these means (e.g., funeral personnel, laundry personnel).

- Consultants and other individuals contracted by health care organizations that may come into health care settings but do not have direct contact with patients and do not have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.

Long-Term Care Staff and Residents: This group includes residents of a Long-Term Care Facility which is defined as an assisted living facility or residential care facility subject to State licensure pursuant to state Chapters 1663 and 1664.

Public-Facing Public Safety Personnel: This group is limited to public-facing personnel at fire departments, federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as officers at correctional facilities. It includes public-facing personnel at the Transportation Security Agency and Customs and Border Patrol.

Of note, this group does NOT include administrative personnel, private security personnel, and ski patrol members.

It also does NOT include state public safety staff who do not have direct contact with the public on a regular basis (i.e., as a daily part of their job).

COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure: This includes the following personnel: Maine DHHS and CDC personnel whose daily work is critical to COVID-19 testing or epidemiological response and cannot be conducted fully remotely; certain members of the Maine Emergency Management Agency who are required to be physically present in the state Emergency Operations Center; manufacturing personnel at Abbott and IDEXX Laboratories working on COVID-19 test material production, Jackson Laboratories personnel working on COVID-19 coronavirus whole genome sequencing; and Puritan Medical Products personnel working on swab production.

Additional General Considerations: Given the wide variety of health care settings and jobs, this guidance continues to allow vaccination site staff to exercise discretion in their determination eligible patient-facing health care personnel; however, in light of the need to continue prioritizing vaccines for people at risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19, vaccination providers should apply a “face-value” test to eliminate from eligibility any personnel for whom significant questions are raised.

Hospitals, outpatient settings, and public safety organizations that are receiving COVID-19 vaccine through the Maine Immunization Program should provide for vaccination of their own patient- and public-facing clinical personnel. Other eligible individuals in this group should be informed at the time of registration that they will be asked to show proof of their eligibility and employment upon their presentation at the vaccination clinic.

There is no exceptions process for eligibility for vaccination and Maine CDC or DHHS staff are not authorized to interpret this guidance, which will be updated as needed.