

# Transylvania County COVID-19 Vaccination Update: 1/29/21

Supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine are limited, so it must be offered in phases. This vaccination campaign will take months, not weeks, but everyone will eventually have access to a tested, safe, and effective vaccine. Variables that will impact our vaccination plan include vaccine supply, ongoing demands with COVID-19 case surges, and the availability of personnel and resources to administer vaccines. In addition to vaccinating those in approved priority groups, public health staff are also busy responding to new COVID-19 cases, providing technical assistance and testing for ongoing outbreaks, and providing other public health duties as required by general statutes. We ask for patience as we navigate this process.



Transylvania Public Health will continue offering vaccines to people eligible to receive the vaccine in Group 1 and Group 2, as supplies allow.

People can receive a vaccine from any approved provider in any location, as long as they meet the current eligibility criteria. The county currently has 3 approved vaccine providers: Transylvania Public Health, Transylvania Regional Hospital, and Blue Ridge Health – Brevard Health Center. NCDHHS is asking local providers to give vaccines dose within a week of receiving them and to prioritize equity in vaccine distribution to underserved populations.

Despite the current surge in cases, the 3 Ws have proven to be incredibly effective at protecting people. Most of Transylvania County's cases are associated with settings where people dropped their guard with family members not in their household, co-workers, neighbors, and friends. Be sure to keep practicing protection methods like mask-wearing, handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding groups until everyone has a chance to get the vaccine.

## CURRENT PHASE – GROUP 1: Health Care Workers and Long-Term Care Staff and Residents & Group 2: Adults 65 years or older

Transylvania County is still offering vaccines to those eligible in Group 1. This includes healthcare workers with direct patient contact and residents and staff of long-term care facilities. New guidance from NCDHHS clarifies that Group 1 does include home caregivers providing regular medical care to medically fragile children and adults.

Transylvania Public Health is currently offering vaccines to people who are eligible in Group 2 categories. This includes anyone 65 years or older. An estimated 9,700 people in Transylvania County are eligible for vaccine in Group 2.

It will take several weeks to offer vaccine to everyone in this group. We will continue to offer more appointments each week as supplies allow.

## COMING NEXT – Group 3: Frontline Essential Workers

Group 3 includes frontline essential workers. These are people of any age who must work in person and are employed in one of the following 8 sectors: critical manufacturing, education and childcare, essential goods, food and agriculture, government and community services, public health and social workers, public safety, and transportation.

A timeline for completing Group 3 will depend on vaccine supplies and the number of people who want a vaccine.

## LATER – Group 4: Adults at High Risk for Exposure and Increased Risk of Severe Illness

Group 4 includes adults under age 64 with chronic health conditions increase the risk of severe illness from COVID-19, people in group living situations, and essential workers.

By the time we get to this group, we anticipate that vaccine supply will be more plentiful and options for vaccinations will be available in places like grocery stores and pharmacies.

## VACCINE ENROLLMENT STEPS

Transylvania Public Health is expecting to receive 200 doses of vaccine from the state allocation for the next 3 weeks. We will be working to schedule vaccination sites at locations throughout the county.

Appointments will be offered one week at a time. Specific dates and times for vaccine appointments will be announced soon.

When more appointments open, people who are eligible to receive the vaccine will be able to make an appointment by phone (call 828-884-4007) or online at [transylvaniahealth.org](http://transylvaniahealth.org).

To receive notifications of new vaccination appointments, sign up for Transylvania County's T.E.A.M. alerts. Visit [http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/transylvania\\_nc/wens.cfm](http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/transylvania_nc/wens.cfm) to sign up for alerts.

*Additional appointments will be scheduled week to week as more vaccine supplies are received. An appointment-based system will be necessary to avoid long lines and delays with limited vaccine supply. Vaccines will not be given to people without an appointment.*



For more information and the latest vaccine updates, visit [transylvaniahealth.org](http://transylvaniahealth.org)