

Transylvania County COVID-19 Vaccination Update: 2/14/21

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 to focus on offering vaccines to people eligible to receive the vaccine in Group 1 and Group 2 for now, as supplies allow.

North Carolina will open COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to Group 3 education and childcare workers on February 24, followed by other Group 3 frontline essential workers on March 10. NCDHHS will allow local vaccine providers to delay moving into additional phases until they are ready to begin serving these groups. Providers must give vaccines within a week of receiving them and prioritize equity in distribution to underserved populations.

The 3 Ws have proven to be incredibly effective at protecting people. 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

Group 1 includes healthcare workers with direct patient contact and residents and staff of long-term care facilities. NCDHHS guidance clarifies that Group 1 includes home caregivers providing regular medical care to medically fragile children and adults. Group 2 includes anyone 65 years or older.

Transylvania Public Health will continue offering vaccines to people eligible in Groups 1 and 2 for now. It will take several more weeks to offer vaccine to everyone in this group.

FEBRUARY 24 – Group 3: Education and Childcare MARCH 10 – Group 3: Frontline Essential Workers

Group 3 includes frontline essential workers. Education workers include people of any age working as teachers, administrators, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other support staff in childcare and PreK-12 education settings. Other frontline essential workers include people of any age who must work in person and are employed in one of the following 8 sectors: education and childcare, critical manufacturing, essential goods, food and agriculture, government and community services, public health and social workers, public safety, and transportation.

NCDHHS will allow vaccine providers to begin offering vaccines to education and childcare workers on 2/24 and other frontline essential workers on 3/10, but **Transylvania Public Health will delay offering vaccines to this group for now.** 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 will be receiving 500 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for the week of February 16-22. This includes 200 doses originally allocated by the state plus an additional 300 doses based on our county's population who are 65 or older.

This week, appointments will be available:
Friday, February 19 in Brevard

Starting Monday, February 15 at 2 pm, people who are eligible to receive the vaccine in Groups 1 or 2 will be able to make an appointment by phone (call 828-884-4007) or online at transylvaniahealth.org

More appointments will be offered one week at a time. To receive notifications about new vaccination appointments, sign up for Transylvania County's T.E.A.M. alerts. Visit 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 without an appointment.



For more information and the latest vaccine updates, visit transylvaniahealth.org