

As Illinois continues to scale its vaccination program, Governor Pritzker, Dr. Ezike, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the entire administration are committed to putting equity at the forefront, as it has been throughout the COVID-19 response efforts. Building on ACIP's recommendations, the state of Illinois is lowering the age eligibility by 10 years to ensure equitable access to the vaccine's protections, prioritizing residents age 65 and over in Phase 1B. In doing so, Illinois seeks to save lives in a truly equitable manner, recognizing that multi-generational institutional racism has reduced access to care, caused higher rates of environmental and social risk, and increased co-morbidities for people of color. As public health experts continue to review the federal government's recommendations for Phase 1C in the context of Illinois' data, Governor Pritzker and Dr. Ezike will ensure the state's exit plan for this pandemic centers on the very structural inequalities that allowed COVID-19 to rage through our most vulnerable communities in the first place.

PHASE 1A AND 1B IN ILLINOIS

Phase 1A

The first phase of vaccinations includes frontline healthcare workers as well as residents and staff of long-term care facilities. The goal is to fortify the healthcare workforce by removing the most exposed workers from the cycle of illness and infection as well as protect our most vulnerable residents. Most recent evaluations of Illinois' healthcare workforce and nursing home and long-term care facility residents and staff estimate approximately 850,000 Illinoisans qualify for Phase 1A. Healthcare vaccinations began on December 15, 2020, with the federal government's nursing home and long-term care vaccination program delivering its first shots on December 28, 2020. The state estimates that all interested residents in Phase 1A will be vaccinated in the coming weeks.

Phase 1B

Once Illinois makes substantial progress in Phase 1A and federal vaccine deliveries increase, Phase 1B will include frontline essential workers and residents age 65 and over. The frontline essential workers designation includes many residents who carry a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure because of their work duties, often because they are unable to work from home, and/or they must work closely to others without being able to socially distance. This include first responders, education, food and agriculture, manufacturing, corrections workers and inmates, USPS workers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and staff at shelters and day cares. To provide more equitable vaccine access to elder populations given data showing people of color die of COVID-19 at younger ages, Illinois lowered the age eligibility recommended by ACIP by 10 years, from age 75 to age 65. Illinois has 1.3 million people who qualify as "frontline essential workers" and 1.9 million adults age 65 and over, totaling 3.2 million eligible Illinoisans.

PREVENTING INFECTION WHILE VACCINATIONS CONTINUE

While Illinoisans get vaccinated for COVID-19 and build immunity, it's vital that residents continue to take safety precautions to prevent additional infections from occurring. Wearing a mask and practicing social distancing and hand hygiene are proven methods of reducing virus transmission and can help save lives.

For the latest information on vaccine distribution in Illinois, please visit the IDPH website: dph.illinois.gov.

PHASE 1A



**FRONTLINE
HEALTHCARE WORKERS**



**LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY
RESIDENTS AND STAFF**

PHASE 1B



**FRONTLINE
ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

1.3 MILLION IN ILLINOIS



**RESIDENTS AGE
65 AND OVER**

1.9 MILLION IN ILLINOIS

Including, but not limited to, the following occupations:

- **First responders:** Fire, law enforcement, 911 workers, security personnel, school officers
- **Education:** Teachers, principals, student support, student aids, day care worker
- **Food and agriculture:** Processing, plants, veterinary health, livestock services, animal care
- **Manufacturing:** Industrial production of good for distribution to retail, wholesale or other manufactures
- **Corrections workers and inmates:** Jail officers, juvenile facility staff, workers providing in-person support, inmates
- **USPS workers**
- **Public transit workers:** Flight crew, bus drivers, train conductors, taxi drivers, para-transit drivers, in-person support, ride sharing services
- **Grocery store workers:** Baggers, cashiers, stockers, pick-up, customer service
- **Shelters and day care staff:** Homeless shelter, women's shelter, adult day/drop-in program, sheltered workshop, psycho-social rehab