



Vaccine Distribution During Phase 1c and Phase 2

The group of individuals eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine during the next phases (Phase 1c and Phase 2) of vaccine distribution in Wisconsin will be expanded to include people who have health conditions known to be associated with a greater risk of severe illness. The [list of conditions](#) that determines eligibility during Phase 1c has been developed by the CDC based on the [best available evidence](#). This list of conditions is considered to be a living document, and is subject to change as new evidence emerges. As of February 24, the list published on the CDC website contained 23 different conditions, divided into two groups based on how strongly the scientific evidence suggests that the conditions are linked to increased risk. When the Wisconsin vaccine distribution strategy moves into Phase 1c, individuals between the ages of 16 and 64 with any of the conditions on the CDC list (excluding smoking) will be considered eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Wisconsin's approach to determining eligibility for vaccination during Phase 1c and Phase 2 was based on recommendations from the State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC), which convened a series of open meetings and solicited public input from December 2020 to February 2021. In each previous eligibility group, the SDMAC noted vaccinators may consider prioritizing individuals with health status characteristics from the CDC list. In addition, the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee consistently noted that the next eligible group would include people ages 16 through 64 with medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19.

Adults of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19 and will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1c beginning March 29:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant, blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Liver disease
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30-39 kg/m²)
- Overweight (BMI of 25-29 kg/m²)
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Severe Obesity (BMI 40 kg/m² or more)
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)

When will individuals meeting eligibility criteria for Phase 1c be able to receive a vaccine?

Vaccine distribution is currently in Phase 1b in Wisconsin. This phase began on March 1, when a larger group of residents became eligible to receive vaccine, including people who work in education and child care, individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs, some public-facing essential workers, and staff and residents of congregate living settings. The number of people eligible during Phase 1b is estimated to be approximately 700,000. Based on current information about the available supply of vaccine and the pace of vaccine distribution by our 2,000+ vaccination providers, we anticipate it will take at least four weeks to provide a first dose of vaccine to a majority Phase 1b population. Our current projection is for Phase 1c to begin after at least 75% of people eligible during phase 1a and 50% of people eligible during phase 1b have been vaccinated, which is expected to occur on March 29.

How can vaccinating providers prioritize higher-risk individuals eligible during Phase 1c?

When Phase 1c of vaccine distribution begins, all individuals who have one or more of the listed health conditions will be eligible to receive vaccine. It is anticipated that vaccine supply will still be limited, in comparison to the large number of eligible residents, and some vaccinating providers may choose to sub-prioritize, or to give preference to individuals who are at higher risk when scheduling vaccine appointments. Some criteria that vaccinating providers may consider when scheduling vaccine appointments in the setting of limited supply include the following:

- Individuals aged 50-64 with one or more high-risk conditions.
- Individuals with two or more high-risk conditions.
- Individuals with high-risk conditions that are severe or poorly controlled (for example, have required hospitalization in the past year, or frequent health care encounters for intensive management).
- Individuals from high-risk sociodemographic groups (for example, Black, Hispanic/Latino, Indigenous, or other people of color)

When will people without high-risk medical conditions be able to receive a vaccine?

Using the phased distribution framework developed by ACIP (CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), Wisconsin will make COVID-19 vaccine available to the general population (referred to as Phase 2) as soon as most of the individuals who were prioritized to receive vaccine during Phases 1a, 1b, and 1c have received at least one dose. During Phase 2, all individuals who are eligible to receive a vaccine based on the FDA Emergency Use Authorization for one or more of the available vaccine products, will be able to receive a vaccine in Wisconsin.

DHS currently anticipates that Phase 2 will start in May.