

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
March 2, 2021

Buckle Up- The Vaccination Express is Underway!

With increases in doses from the Federal Government and the approval of Johnson and Johnson, the vaccination program is getting into high gear. This is the anticipated increase:

- Week of March 1- 20,000 vaccinations this week and next
- Week of March 15 – 25,000 vaccinations
- Week of March 29 – 35,000 vaccinations

To date 106,000 Vermonters have been vaccinated, with over 40,000 of these having received their 2nd shot.

By the end of March and into April, J&J expects to deliver 5-6,000 does per week. They are partnering with Merck to increase production. Vermont has about 5,000 doses of J&J on hand.

Coming Attractions

As of today, 20,200 people in the age 65-69 age band have made appointments for the vaccination, that's about half of the eligible population in the age band.

March 8, 8:15 a.m. registration opens for Phase 5A - Those age 55+ with high risk conditions (see below).

March 8 – vaccinations begin for teachers, school staff, child care providers in public and private schools. They will have the option of receiving the Johnson & Johnson single dose vaccine. Walgreens will be provided a list of eligible staff. Details will be provided to those in this group on this Friday. Those working in a central office NOT within a school are not eligible for this round of vaccines. But coaches and others in direct contact with students are eligible.

March 8 – public safety support staff – dispatchers, etc, will be eligible based on rosters submitted in December. Registration details will be provided on Friday.

March 15 -8:15 a.m. –Registration opens for 5B, those 16 and over with high risk conditions (see below). There are 75,000 Vermonters in group 5A and 5B.

It is anticipated that these groups will be completed by the first week of April.

What is a High Risk Condition?

- Current cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis
- Heart disease, including heart attack, heart failure, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease (angina, acute and chronic ischemic heart disease), cardiomyopathies, and pulmonary hypertension. Does NOT include high blood pressure.

- Immunocompromised (weakened immune system), due to solid organ transplant, blood, or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, or other causes; or HIV with a low CD4 cell count or not on HIV treatment; prolonged use of corticosteroids or other immune-suppressing drugs.
- Severe obesity (Body Mass Index of 40 or above)
- Pregnancy
- Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
- Disabilities including chromosomal disorders, such as Down syndrome; intellectual disabilities (IQ of 70 or below); disabilities that compromise lung function (neurologic and muscular conditions such as muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, and multiple sclerosis)
- Sickle cell disease

You do not need a physician referral to 'prove' a high risk condition. To register you'll be asked a number of qualifying questions.

Homebound?

Those who are legitimately homebound and cannot leave the home can call 855-722-7878 to arrange a home-administered vaccination. But this MUST be a need, not a want or a convenience. Capacity to administer homebound vaccinations is limited.

Multiple Registrations

Register for one vaccination only. We've seen cases where some people sign up for multiple locations hoping to get the quickest one. That only bollixes up the system with no-shows, depriving others of the ability to get a shot. Everyone who desires a vaccination will get one eventually.

COVID Status

Vermont numbers have plateaued. While there was an improvement over the late fall and early winter, the numbers are still well above the spring and summer of 2020. And this is what happens when the virus is on the loose. In spite of vaccination progress, we still need to be vigilant and follow safety protocols.

70 new cases in Vermont reported this morning; in the past 14 days there is a bit of a spike in Addison County with 90 news cases. Middlebury's aggregate number is up to 116 infections. There are 23 people hospitalized in the state with 7 patients in the ICU, and the death toll has risen to 206.

This is like throwing a wet blanket over the vaccination information, but it just goes to show you, it's still dangerous out there.