



## COVID-19 UPDATE January 4, 2021

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Update on New York's vaccination plan.

As we prepare for facilitating vaccines for the people we support and staff in the residential homes we oversee, we want to communicate what we know at this time. The information we are receiving is rapidly developing and rapidly changing. We ask for your patience and understanding. We are confident that we will be successful with completing this process, which will occur over a period of time, potentially several months.

The New York State Department of Health has clearly stated that it is likely there will not be enough vaccine initially distributed to vaccinate everyone in Phase-one. Distribution is controlled and regulated by New York State. Initially we expect to be assigned a hospital and/or Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), where vaccines will be scheduled and administered per availability. We are hoping to have initial vaccine availability very soon but have no advance indication of exactly when or the quantity that will be available. We have been assured by the County that many people are working very hard to facilitate vaccination scheduling and the County anticipates releasing the plan as early as this week. We check sources daily, remain up to date and informed, follow guidance for prioritization and prepare for vaccine availability. It is expected that vaccination will be rolled out in phases and not available to everyone at one time.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are being administered under Emergency Use Authorization, and at this time, we are not sure which vaccine will be available. Vaccine fact sheets can be found at <https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-eua-fact-sheet-for-recipients.pdf>, and <https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/12/fact-sheet-recipients-caregivers-moderna-covid-19-vaccine.pdf>. FAQ's can be viewed at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/frequently-asked-questions>. Vaccination is not mandatory, it is optional and an informed choice, however, the more people that are vaccinated the better the odds of success in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

We have initially reached out to families to determine interest in receiving a vaccine for their family member. In addition, we will need to obtain consent in preparation for vaccine availability. We will also be determining staff interest in COVID vaccination. Please understand not everyone will be vaccinated at once and this process will likely occur over weeks to even months. Be assured that we will continue to communicate with you as we work together to achieve health and wellness in 2021.

\*This link will take you directly to the COVID page on our website:

[www.lifetimeassistance.org/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.lifetimeassistance.org/coronavirus-covid-19/)

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