

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

To: Leadership of CT Vaccine Providers  
From: Deidre S. Gifford, Acting Commissioner  
RE: Avoiding improper vaccine administration  
Date: January 17, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deidre S. Gifford".

Thank you for all your hard work in helping to make CT's initial COVID vaccine roll-out a success. We are deeply appreciative of the effort all of you have contributed to getting our most at-risk populations vaccinated quickly.

I am writing to ensure there is clarity among the leadership of vaccine provider organizations on the guidance regarding who is currently eligible for vaccine, and the absolute necessity of adhering to the Governor's direction on allocation.

It has come to our attention that some providers have inappropriately contacted individuals affiliated with their organizations and offered them vaccination out of turn. We have no indication that these vaccines were actually administered, but we want to be sure that this practice is discontinued. Any intentional violation in the allocation of this scarce resource risks damaging the credibility of the entire program and will not be tolerated by DPH.

***Vaccine appointment scheduling is currently available only for: frontline healthcare workers, medical first responders, residents and staff of long term care facilities (group 1a) and those aged 75 and older (from group 1b). Please ensure that only members of these groups are being scheduled for appointments going forward until further notice from DPH about opening appointments to other groups.***

We understand that in an endeavor this complex there will be misunderstandings, and some others in group 1b may have inadvertently or prematurely been scheduled for vaccination. DPH is working with employers and vaccinators to address these issues on an individual basis, and we strongly encourage you to reach out to our team at [COVID19.DPH@ct.gov](mailto:COVID19.DPH@ct.gov) if you need additional clarification of who is currently eligible for vaccine. Despite isolated incidences of these scheduling errors, please do not open your schedules to anyone beyond those described above.

There are many individuals 75 years and older across the State who have not yet been able to secure an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. It is our collective role as a healthcare system at this



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moment to conduct active outreach and create access for this population. Conducting outreach and scheduling for individuals younger than 75+ and the Phase 1a population is at direct odds with this goal of ensuring access for individuals 75-years and older.

The Governor has directed DPH to implement an allocation strategy that focuses on the risk of severe disease and death, with an emphasis on health equity and health disparities. We know that you share those priorities with us, and we need your further cooperation to ensure a continued smooth vaccine program, and public confidence in the effort.