

## Public Health Announces Phase 1B of Covid-19 Vaccine Distribution

Vaccine to be made available to adults 75 years or older beginning Jan 6

**Mecklenburg County, NC** – Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH) is excited to announce that the County will begin offering COVID-19 vaccines to Phase 1B Group 1, which includes all adults 75 years or older, beginning January 6.

In December, the county updated its vaccination plan to align with new federal and state recommendations (as recommended by [current guidelines](#)). Because vaccine supplies are currently limited, the vaccine distribution is being rolled out in phases.

During Phase 1a, the vaccine was made available to healthcare workers caring for and working directly with patients with COVID-19 and those giving vaccines.

In Phase 1b, the vaccine will be made available first to Group 1 **adults 75 years or older** regardless of medical condition or living situation. This next phase of vaccinations will begin Wednesday, January 6.

The County is opening a limited number of appointments for Phase 1b, Group 1 based on the current vaccine supply for both Phase 1a and Phase 1b.

By appointment only COVID-19 Vaccine clinics will be held at Bojangles' Coliseum, 2700 East Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28205 beginning January 6 at 8:30 a.m. Due to limited vaccine availability and the need to follow COVID-19 safety precautions, appointments are **required** for all eligible recipients.

Mecklenburg County residents who are 75 years or older may make an appointment for their **first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine** online beginning at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Instructions are available at [mecknc.gov/COVID-19](https://mecknc.gov/COVID-19).

Eligible Phase 1b Group 1 members may make a **first dose** appointment online at: [mecknc.gov/COVID-19](https://mecknc.gov/COVID-19) or <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/83g1hcpv/>. Please read the appointment instructions carefully.

Phone appointments may be made by calling 980-314-9400 and selecting Option 3 beginning at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5. If you leave a message, we will attempt to return your call within 24-48 business hours.

Appointment slots begin Wednesday, January 6 and will be limited by vaccine supply. If you are unable to secure an appointment right away, please continue to check for updates. As more vaccines are made available, additional appointment times will be made available. We will continue to provide updates at [mecknc.gov/COVID-19](https://mecknc.gov/COVID-19).

To access parking for the COVID-19 Vaccination site at the **Bojangles' Coliseum** BOplex, please use the entrance on Briar Creek Road. Briar Creek Road is exit 244 on East Independence Blvd. For close parking, please use sections 10-15 in the parking lot.

Instructions regarding the second dose appointment will be provided following your appointment for your first dose.

As more vaccines become available, guidance for the following Phase 1B groups will be released:

- Group 2: Health care and frontline essential workers who are 50 years of age or older.
- Group 3: Frontline workers of any age and health care workers of any age, regardless of whether they work directly with COVID-19 patients.

This phase is anticipated to begin in late January.

The County will release additional information about who can be vaccinated in later phases once updated guidance from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is released. You can view the interim prioritization framework on our coronavirus vaccine webpage, [www.MeckNC.gov/COVID-19](http://www.MeckNC.gov/COVID-19). We will share the allocation and prioritization guides for future vaccine phases as it is made available.

### **About the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**

On Dec. 11 the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) issued Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in individuals 16 years of age and older.

- **Vaccine Safety** - COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trials to make sure they meet safety standards. Many people were recruited to participate in these trials to see how the vaccines offers protection to people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as those with different medical conditions. The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain a live virus and cannot give individuals the coronavirus.
- **Who Should Get the Vaccine** - The Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for use in individuals 16 and older. The FDA and CDC are that advising women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, individuals who have experienced allergic reactions to other vaccines and those who have compromised immune systems should discuss the benefits and risks of taking the vaccine with their medical provider before receiving it.
- **Vaccine Side Effects** - The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain a live virus and cannot give individuals the coronavirus. The potential side effects from the vaccine are similar to those experienced by people who receive the flu shot: soreness at the injection site, fever, headaches, and body aches that usually go

away within 24 hours. Unless symptoms worsen or linger, there is no need to seek medical care. Pfizer reported no serious side effects from the vaccine, and there were no deaths directly linked to the vaccine itself. The FDA and CDC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 vaccine for safety and effectiveness and any long-term or rare side effects.

- **Vaccine Dosage** - The Pfizer vaccine does require two doses spaced about three weeks apart to be effective. The same brand of vaccine must be administered for both doses. **Vaccine Cost** - The COVID-19 vaccine will be available to everyone at no cost to the person receiving the vaccine, no matter whether you have health insurance.

More information about the COVID-19 vaccine is available at [www.MeckNC.gov/COVID-19](http://www.MeckNC.gov/COVID-19) or by calling the Public Health COVID-19 hotline at 980-314-9400.

**\*\*\*Virtual Q&A Regarding Vaccinations TODAY, Jan. 4, 5p.m.\*\*\***

Who: Public Health Director Gibbie Harris, Deputy Health Director Dr. Raynard Washington, Public Health Medical Director Dr. Meg Sullivan.

How: To participate in this media briefing, please download WebEx software (if needed) and log in as follows. \*\* SPECIAL NOTE FOR MEDIA: Please make sure you are close enough to your microphone for your questions to be heard. Speak slowly. If possible, use headphones or earbuds to cut down on ambient noise. Please familiarize yourself with the WebEx software prior to the event. \*\* · Meeting link: Virtual Media Update Link

- Meeting number: 129 337 6740
- Password: MeckCounty2020!

or

- Join by video system · Dial [1293376740@MeckNC.webex.com](https://1293376740@MeckNC.webex.com)
- You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.
- Join by phone +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
- Access code: 129 337 6740 · A clean live feed can be accessed at MeckNC.gov