

# County Administrator

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County Administrator

# Contra Costa County



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January 14, 2021

## COVID 19 Vaccine Update#2 to Department Heads,

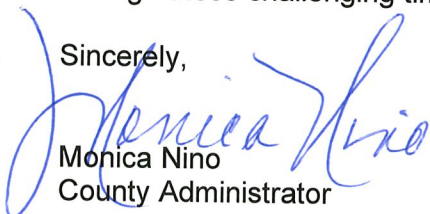
At the end of December, we sent out our first COVID-19 Vaccine update. We let Department Heads know that vaccination is one of the most important tools to end the COVID-19 pandemic and that we had begun distributing COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals. The question on everyone's mind was and still is – when will my staff be eligible to be vaccinated. The following information is offered to keep you up-to-date on the vaccination rollout and to aid you in answering questions you might receive from our employees.

1. The COVID-19 Vaccine Ethical and Equitable Allocations Committee continues to provide input to Contra Costa Health Services on how to make allocation decisions that are fair and equitable for the entire community (including County staff), based on the recommendations from federal and state authorities and taking into account the disparate impact COVID-19 has had on disadvantaged communities.
2. The distribution of vaccine to employee groups varies from county to county based on prioritization by the individual county's health department.
3. For County staff, our first doses (Phase 1A) were administered to our health care workers who fit into the definition of high-risk exposure to COVID on the job, detention/custody employees and inmates/juveniles, police/fire, maintenance employees working within our detention/custody facilities, and limited library employees for the same reasons. These include employees in clinical and non-clinical roles such as environmental services, patient transport, etc. Vaccinations are on-going.
4. The group currently scheduling to receive vaccinations are individuals aged 65 and over. Employees who are County residents aged 65 and over may now request an appointment to receive a vaccination. They can self-certify on Health Services' website at: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/distribution-phases>. Employees who live in another county and whose eligibility is based on age must obtain their vaccination from their County of residence.
5. The next group eligible to begin vaccinations will be essential workers as defined by the State who are unable to mitigate risk through isolation due to the nature of their work:
  - Public, private, and voluntary personnel (front line and management) in emergency management, law enforcement, fire and rescue services, emergency medical services, corrections, rehabilitation and reentry, search and rescue, hazardous material response, and technicians supporting maritime and aviation emergency response.
  - Public Safety Answering Points and 911 call center employees; personnel involved in access to emergency services including the emergency alert system and wireless emergency alerts.
  - Fusion Center employees
  - Workers who support weather disaster / natural hazard monitoring, response, mitigation, and prevention, including personnel conducting, supporting, or facilitating wildfire mitigation activities

- Workers – including contracted vendors — who maintain, manufacture, or supply equipment and services supporting law enforcement, fire, EMS, and emergency service response operations (including safety equipment, electronic security, and uniforms)
  - Workers responding to abuse and neglect of children, elders and dependent adults. Workers responding to abuse are those who must enter an individual's home without the opportunity to plan/mitigate risk.
6. Remember that supplies will increase over time; however, current available doses continue to be insufficient to meet demand. We appreciate the advocacy of Department Heads for their staff and **will notify you** as soon as possible regarding their eligibility. We will let you know when your employees meet the current criteria. If in doubt, please don't hesitate to ask [lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us].
  7. As doses are planned for groups of County staff, we will inform the affected department head, staff, and our labor partners of the specific logistics.
  8. We expect it may be **several months** before vaccine is available to all of our essential public-facing County staff. We will continue to keep you informed regarding plans.
  9. Vaccination is voluntary, highly recommended, and free. Educational materials are being developed to inform staff decisions regarding vaccination.
  10. It is important to note that we will continue to mandate all physical distancing, face covering, and hand washing precautions into the foreseeable future. These requirements will include vaccinated staff.
  11. Together we can end the pandemic. Learn more about Contra Costa's campaign to equitably distribute a safe and effective vaccine at: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine>.

Thank you for all you do, and for continuing to work with us to support our employees and our community through these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Monica Nino  
County Administrator

c: County Labor Partners