



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 31, 2020

Contact: Amy Koslosky, Supervising Community Education Specialist, (530) 225-5970

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### **COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

SHASTA COUNTY—The goal and top priority of Shasta County Public Health is to ensure everyone in the county is safe and healthy. The first COVID-19 vaccines—Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, Inc.—have been [authorized for use in the United States](#), and the first shipments have arrived in Shasta County. Vaccines from other companies may be authorized soon. As with any vaccine, Shasta County will not distribute a COVID-19 vaccine unless it has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Each vaccine is tested among tens of thousands of volunteers to ensure that it is safe and effective. Shasta County Public Health strongly recommends that you get a vaccine once you are eligible.

“Vaccination is one of the easiest, most effective ways to protect yourself from communicable diseases, including COVID-19,” said Shasta County Health Officer Dr. Karen Ramstrom. “I’m excited and optimistic about the effectiveness of the vaccines.”

Currently, there are limited supplies of the vaccines. The COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout plan at [ShastaReady.org](https://www.shastaready.org) will be updated as supplies improve.

### **Number of COVID-19 Vaccine Doses**

Shasta County Public Health is distributing its vaccine supply throughout the county, beginning with individuals at the highest risk of exposure to the virus or death due to COVID-19.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Total Doses Given to Shasta County</b>
Pfizer-BioNTech	3,900
Moderna, Inc.	2,800

These early doses are for people in the highest risk categories, as set by the state and federal government. Specifically, they will be offered to healthcare personnel. In Shasta County alone, there are nearly 14,000 licensed and certified healthcare workers who are at risk of being exposed to COVID-19 each day on the job as they sustain our medical services during this pandemic. As we wait for more supply of vaccine, the healthcare personnel who are at higher risk of exposure are being vaccinated first and subsequent risk groups in sequential order to match available supplies.

Next week, the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care (LTC) Program will offer doses to long-term care facilities staff, and the elderly and vulnerable patients in their care, who are more likely to have severe illness and die from COVID-19.

In Shasta County, 11.9% percent of COVID-19 cases are in long-term care facilities, however, they account for 63.0% percent of all COVID-19 deaths.

The next eligible group includes staff of dialysis centers, and staff of residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment centers and behavioral health facilities.

### **Vaccine Plan**

Due to the size of the state's population and the limited supply of vaccines, the COVID-19 Vaccination Program requires a phased approach. There are four vaccination phases planned, and Phase 1 has 3 levels (1a with 3 tiers, 1b and 1c). Currently, Shasta County is in Phase 1a; Tier 1 that prioritizes healthcare personnel. To review the COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout, visit [ShastaReady.org](https://shastaready.org). The website will be updated with more phases as vaccine supplies improve.

### **Looking Forward**

The timeline for vaccinations is dependent on the number of doses the county receives from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the initial amounts will not provide

vaccinations for everyone in the priority groups, more doses will become available in the coming weeks and months. Once Phase 1a; Tier 1 is complete, the next step will be Phase 1a, Tier 2, which includes:

- Intermediate care, for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Staff of *outpatient* Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment centers
- Staff of *outpatient* behavioral health programs
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public Health field staff with patient contact
- Primary care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers
- Correctional facility clinics and urgent care clinics

Upcoming Phases 1b and 1c will continue to develop as the California Community Vaccine Advisory Committee confirms priority groups.

### **Partnerships are Key to the Effort**

Planning the logistics of vaccinating our community takes a united effort from all. Shasta County Public Health is working with partners from healthcare and community organizations, as well as public officials and other groups. In particular, Public Health created a COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force to determine how the national and state recommendations will be applied to our local vaccination plans. It works with partners such as Shasta Community Health Center to vaccinate healthcare personnel as we work through the tiers. Public Health is committed to sharing information with our partners, work together to identify strategies to vaccinate various groups, and provide people with the information they need to make decisions about the vaccine.

For more information, please visit:

[ShastaReady.org](https://shastaready.org)

[Covid19.ca.gov/vaccines](https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines)

[www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19Vaccine.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19Vaccine.aspx)

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