



## INFORMATIONAL MEMO

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY &amp; FINANCING UPDATE TO PROVIDERS REGARDING COVID-19 AND VACCINATION</b>
<b>SUPERSEDES NUMBER:</b>	N/A
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>JANUARY 15, 2021</b>
<b>DIVISION AND OFFICE:</b>	<b>OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIVING</b>
<b>PROGRAM AREA:</b>	<b>LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS</b>
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*HCPF Memo Series can be accessed online: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/memo-series>*

### **Purpose and Audience:**

The purpose of this Informational Memo informs providers that the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's (CDPHE) has created a three-phase plan to be as fair as possible about when people get the COVID-19 vaccine. The plan is based on people's risk of serious complications and death from the virus.

### **Information:**

The following information is being issued by the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (Department) to health First Colorado Providers and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) Providers:

As the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact Coloradans, it's now more important than ever for the the Department to ensure those providing care for our Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and CHP+ members are protected.

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) has created a **three-phase plan** to be as fair as possible about when people will get the vaccine. It's **based on people's risk** of serious complications and death from the virus.

CDPHE is the lead agency for the vaccine roll out phasing and timing, and will update its lists and Frequently Asked Questions on a regular basis at [covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine](https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine).

CDPHE updated its phasing December 30, and **Health First Colorado and CHP+ providers who care for our highest risk members are included in Phase 1A:**

- This includes highest-risk health care workers who must have **direct contact with COVID-19 patients** for longer periods of time (defined as 15 minutes or more over a period of 24 hours) as part of their jobs.
- This phase also includes long-term care (LTC) facility staff including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities and group homes serving LTC residents. Residents of any such facility are also included.

With the update from CDPHE, **the following Health First Colorado and CHP+ providers are now included in Phase 1B:**

- **Moderate-risk health care workers and responders**  
Health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients, but who still work in direct patient care or as direct patient care support staff. This includes home care workers defined as staff providing direct care to individuals through home visitation programs, early intervention, outpatient services like occupational, speech, physical and behavioral therapies, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), Program for all Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), long-term home health and private duty nursing staff.
- **Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT) and Non-Medical Transportation (NMT) workers**
- **Essential workers in high risk settings**  
Those working in homeless shelters and encampments, dental offices and corrections settings.
- **Behavioral health workers**  
Similar to moderate-risk health care workers and responders, behavioral health care workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients but who still work

in direct patient care or as direct patient care support staff. This includes but is not limited to staff in intensive treatment and wrap around programs.

Please encourage your staff to get their vaccines and refer them to CDPHE for resources on safety. You can get more information on which phase you and your staff should be vaccinated in and where at [covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-providers](https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine-providers). You and your employees can find information about where they can get the vaccine [listed by county here](#).

The two available vaccines require two doses 3-4 weeks apart. Both doses are needed to maximize your body's ability to create antibodies against the virus. The vaccines work and are safe. They have passed all the tests needed to evaluate their safety and effectiveness, and the process has been overseen by the nation's top scientists and doctors. You can learn more about vaccine safety [here](#).

You, your employees and your patients can find more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, where to get it, safety information and more at [covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine](https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine) or by calling the COHELP hotline at 1-877-462-2911. We will continue to provide COVID-19 and vaccine information and updates about Health First Colorado and CHP+ through our newsletters and online at [colorado.gov/hcpf/covid](https://colorado.gov/hcpf/covid).

**Attachment(s):**

None

**Department Contact:**

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