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Governor

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State Health Commissioner

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Indiana Vaccinating Sites:

First of all, thank you for all of your tremendous work over the last several weeks. Indiana is one of the leading states in vaccinating safely and efficiently, and all the credit goes to you.

The purpose of this letter is to clarify who is currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Indiana and to address standby lists.

Eligibility Criteria:

It has come to our attention that there are entities incorrectly notifying groups that they meet eligibility criteria or that people are individually misinterpreting the criteria. We understand that this has put a tremendous strain on the sites that are left turning people away. COVID-19 vaccine supplies are currently limited nationally, which is why the Indiana Department of Health has outlined an approach to vaccine eligibility that focuses first on preventing hospitalizations, saving lives and protecting the most vulnerable Hoosiers. Therefore, we must all be steadfast in sticking to the outlined criteria.

The only people who currently meet eligibility criteria are:

- Indiana residents 70 years of age or older (this will be expanded to 65+ soon)
- Healthcare workers who live in Indiana, or who can show proof they work in Indiana, and have face-to-face interactions with patients or contact with infectious material **in** a healthcare setting
- First responders who are firefighters, police officers or sheriff's deputies, Emergency Medical Services, reservists, or correctional officers who live in Indiana, or show proof that they work in Indiana, and who are regularly called to the scene of an emergency to give medical aid.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.



This does not include anyone outside of the “first responder” definition above. A non-exhaustive list of people who currently DO NOT meet eligibility criteria: 911 dispatchers, other city employees with the local designation of “first responders,” judges, lawyers, prosecutors, bus drivers, snow plow drivers, sanitation workers, volunteers, or clergy who are not actively seeing patients in a hospital or long-term care setting.

As noted above, eligible recipients must live in Indiana or show proof that they are employed by an Indiana business and meet the above criteria. A photo ID, proof of age, or verification of current employment as a healthcare worker or first responder (according to the above definition) will be required upon arrival at the vaccination clinic.

Individuals should refer to the IDOH [website](#) or can call the IDOH call center if they have questions about their eligibility status. If you, as a vaccination site, have questions about a group’s eligibility, do not hesitate to reach out to me, lweaver@isdh.in.gov, or Pam Pontones, ppontones@isdh.in.gov. This includes providers who have patients meeting extraordinary circumstances that require vaccination to be completed prior to initiating chemotherapy treatment. At this time, there is no further expansion of the eligibility criteria beyond age, and we will not respond to letters or email requests until we update eligibility criteria in the future. We believe everyone who meets the intended criteria has been reached.

If you are aware of groups that were incorrectly told they qualify, their appointments should be canceled and they should be notified that they will not be provided with a vaccination if they arrive at the site.

Standby Lists:

Thank you for developing end-of-day standby lists when you have leftover doses that must be given that evening so that they are not wasted.

At this time, your standby list should reflect ONLY people who are considered at high risk for hospitalization and death from a COVID-19 infection. People 60 and older (a few locations with small populations have expanded this to 55 and older) and/or people who meet the CDC’s definition of persons at higher risk of hospitalization and death: active cancer receiving treatment (chemotherapy, radiation, surgery), chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), Down Syndrome, heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies), immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from



solid organ transplant, obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²), severe obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, smoking, type 2 diabetes mellitus. Your patient list can also help inform your standby list.

We recognize that there may be circumstances when it is impossible to find someone at the last minute who meets these definitions, and we continue to stand by the statement that we do not want to waste any doses.

We sincerely appreciate your dedication to this once in a lifetime endeavor.

Thank you,

Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP
Chief Medical Officer