

Key updates

Updated caregiver definition – eligible caregivers eligible now in 1a

The Department of Health has clarified the definition for caregivers eligible for vaccine to ensure more consistent and equitable access. **Caregivers who meet this definition are eligible for vaccine in 1a** as workers in health care settings. Specifically:

- Eligible caregivers (licensed, unlicensed, paid, unpaid, formal, or informal) who support the daily, functional and health needs of another individual who is at high risk for COVID-19 illness due to advanced age, long-term physical condition, co-morbidities, or developmental or intellectual disability. For the caregiver to be eligible, the care recipient:
 - Must be someone who needs caregiving support for their daily, functioning, and health needs.
 - Can be an adult or minor child. For dependent minor children, the caregiver is eligible if that child has an underlying health condition or disability that puts them at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness. For example: a caregiver of a minor child with Down syndrome.

Prioritization of people with disabilities – eligible in Phase 1b, Tier 2 starting on March 22

The Department of Health has included individuals with certain disabilities that put people at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness in the next tier of eligibility. People who meet this definition will be eligible for vaccine starting March 22.

- Individuals with Down syndrome, a developmental disability, or an intellectual disability, or who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/low-vision, or deafblind; AND that disability or an underlying medical condition increases their risk for severe outcomes per the CDC's list of the conditions that put people at increased risk of severe illness.

If you have any questions:

- General COVID vaccine questions: covid.vaccine@doh.wa.gov
- Formal feedback on the vaccine prioritization and allocation: vaccine.engagement@doh.wa.gov
- Questions about the Collaborative: vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov