

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

Vaccination Distribution Update



January 15, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the lead agency for vaccine distribution in Palm Beach County?

Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County (FDOH) is the lead agency for vaccine distribution in our County.

Who are the primary agencies in Palm Beach County supporting the State's efforts to vaccinate its residents?

Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County (HCD) are supporting State efforts of the Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County (FDOH) to vaccinate priority populations in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, 20-315. Area hospitals are dispensing vaccines to front line healthcare workers.

Who is currently eligible to receive vaccinations in Palm Beach County?

The Governor's Order prioritizes three high priority populations to be first to get vaccinated:

- front-line health care workers;
- long-term care residents and staff; and
- Individuals 65 years of age and older.

How is Palm Beach County receiving vaccine allocations?

- Palm Beach County continues to receive vaccine doses. The amount allocated is determined by the state.
- Palm Beach County area hospitals received separate allocations directly from the State and must dispense according to the emergency order. These are primarily to front-line health care workers.
- Long-term care facilities and nursing homes vaccinations are being managed under federal and state initiatives. These are specific partnerships with pharmacies such as CVS and Walgreens and the use of special state teams to assist with the distribution.

How are the vaccines being distributed?

Local distribution of the vaccine is underway. See the [PBC Vaccine Page](#) for the latest count. FDOH is currently vaccinating 500 people per day including health care personnel and persons 65 years of age or older that have requested an appointment through their email system. HCD is vaccinating health workers and existing HCD patients. Two communities selected by the state, King's Point and Century Village Boca Raton are currently being vaccinated with additional vaccine supply from the state. Century Village WPB has been scheduled as well by the state. All patients receiving the vaccine must have an appointment and complete consent forms with pre-screening questions prior to arrival.

How do I sign up for the vaccine?

If you sent an email to FDOH at chd50feedback@flhealth.gov and provided your name, address, date of birth and phone number requesting a vaccination, it will be held in queue, and as vaccine doses become available, those individuals will be contacted by FDOH. Vaccination appointments are based on vaccine availability. Additional registration systems are being developed for future appointments. Stay tuned for information regarding this process.

Why am I having difficulty getting a vaccine?

There is a large difference between the number of vaccine doses received at the Department of Health (about 25,000) and the high priority vaccination population eligible to receive the vaccine in Palm Beach County (over 400,000 residents). This wide disparity between supply and demand has created a vaccination strategy challenge of not having sufficient doses to implement large-scale vaccination operations at this time.

What is the long term strategy for vaccine distribution in Palm Beach County?

As the vaccine supply increases over the next several months, vaccination efforts and vaccination strategy will be expanded. This strategy will utilize:

- fixed regionally located vaccination centers (similar to our large testing sites)
- points of distribution (smaller scale distribution sites in targeted neighborhoods)
- clinic operations (such as Department of Health and Health Care District Clinics)
- mobile pop-up community sites (utilizing our mobile testing vehicles Hero and Scout)

Where do I get more information about vaccine distribution?

If you are 65 years of age or older, remain tuned in for announcements from local health officials; federal, state and local government agencies; homeowners associations; and other recognized community sources regarding vaccine availability. Be prepared to utilize an on-line registration system or other alternative means to register.

What precautions should I continue to take to avoid contracting COVID-19?

Continue to take precautions to avoid spreading or contracting the COVID virus. Wear your mask and avoid the "3 C's" – crowded places, close contact, and confined and enclosed spaces.

I am nervous that I won't be able to get a vaccine?

Be patient. The County Health Department expects to receive sufficient quantities of the vaccine in the weeks to come to begin large scale vaccination efforts. The Board of County Commissioners and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County are committed to the support of State efforts and the goal of getting as many of our residents vaccinated as quickly as possible. Palm Beach County is ready, prepared and equipped to facilitate the mass distribution of vaccines. **Our current challenge is in the lack of supply of vaccines.** As more vaccine doses become available, we are prepared to distribute them in the coming weeks, and are committed to ensure that everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to receive one in Palm Beach County.

For additional information related to COVID 19, go to: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/coronavirus>