

March 5, 2021

## Phase 5 Eligibility Start Dates

Vermonters with certain high-risk health conditions will be able to make vaccine appointments beginning on the dates indicated below.

- March 8, 2021: ages 55-64 with one or more of the high-risk health conditions (listed on page three and in the code list attached)
- March 15, 2021: ages 16-64 with one or more high-risk health conditions

## Appointments

Vermonters can make appointments online at [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine), or if they need help making an appointment, they can call 855-722-7878.

They will be asked:

- If they have one of the eligible high-risk health conditions.
  - Note: People will not need to specify which condition they have.
- To name a health care provider who can confirm that they have one of the high-risk health conditions. **If a person does not have a health care provider, they can still schedule an appointment.**
  - People who do not indicate a health care provider may be contacted by a care coordinator to get more information and be offered a connection to care if they are interested.
- Eligible people can register at all of the sites open to other eligible age groups, including pharmacy partners. More information is available at [healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine)

## Small Sample Confirmation Process through Providers

Health care providers do not need to confirm a patient's condition before an appointment is scheduled. After a person makes their vaccine appointment, we will try to confirm their eligibility due to a high-risk health condition by cross-checking it with data from VITL – Vermont's Health Information Exchange. Of people whose condition cannot be confirmed through this data, a random sample will be selected to be confirmed by their health care provider. The Vermont Department of Health will securely send the names of patients from this random sample to their identified provider (compiled and sent in batches to the provider if asked to confirm more than one patient's condition). Providers will need to confirm that the patient has one of the listed conditions but will not need to indicate which condition.

**Please respond within one business day via secure e-mail.** This process will not impede the person receiving their vaccination unless the confirmation process shows that they **do not** have a listed condition. If patients are not confirmed, their appointment will automatically move forward. For reference, a list of high-risk condition diagnostic codes accompanies this communication.

Julie Parker ([Julie.Parker@vermont.gov](mailto:Julie.Parker@vermont.gov)), Mara Donohue ([Mara.Donohue@vermont.gov](mailto:Mara.Donohue@vermont.gov)), Brianna Nalley ([Brianna.Nalley@vermont.gov](mailto:Brianna.Nalley@vermont.gov)), or Tim Tremblay ([Tim.Tremblay@vermont.gov](mailto:Tim.Tremblay@vermont.gov)) will communicate to practices via secure e-mail communication when confirmation is required for a patient.

## High-Risk Health Conditions for Eligibility in Phase 5 of Vaccine Distribution

People with one or more of the following high-risk health conditions are eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine during Phase 5 in Vermont:

- Current cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis
- Heart disease, including heart attack, heart failure, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease (angina, acute and chronic ischemic heart disease), cardiomyopathies, and pulmonary hypertension. Does NOT include high blood pressure.
- Immunocompromised (weakened immune system) due to one or more of the following causes:
  - Solid organ transplant, blood, or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, or other causes; or
  - HIV with a low CD4 cell count or not on HIV treatment; or
  - Prolonged use of corticosteroids or other immune suppressing drugs.
- Severe obesity (BMI of 40 or above)
- Pregnancy
- Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
- Has one or more of the following disabilities:
  - Chromosomal disorders, such as Down syndrome;
  - Intellectual disabilities (IQ of 70 or below);
  - Disabilities that compromise lung function (neurologic and muscular conditions such as muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, and multiple sclerosis).
- Sickle cell disease

*This list is also available on the Health Department's website: [healthvermont.gov/COVID19vaccine](https://healthvermont.gov/COVID19vaccine)*