

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

March 19, 2021

When are we moving to phase 1C? Ball park, still March or maybe April? Who will be included?

- We are moving away from talking about who can be vaccinated by 'phases.' Instead we are focusing on groups that are eligible.
- Our vaccine supply has significantly increased, and as the number of seniors who are requesting vaccination appointments continues to drop, we are in a position to make them available to more Delawareans.
- We are making a strong push through the end of March to vaccinate the remaining seniors 65+ and frontline essential workers who want a vaccine, and reaching other vulnerable Delawareans.
- With increasing supply, we will accelerate through and meet President Biden's May deadline of making all adults 16+ eligible to receive a vaccine.
- We are now expanding eligibility for vaccinations to persons 50+ and 16-64 year olds with high and moderate risk medical conditions – and their family caregivers, along with frontline and other essential employees.

Why are younger populations – teachers and essential workers – getting vaccinated before Delaware seniors?

- All Delaware seniors (65+) are still eligible to receive their vaccine.
- If you are 65+ and still have yet to receive your vaccine, go to vaccinerequest.delaware.gov for immediate invitations.
- Delaware has opened up vaccinations to all frontline and other essential workers, but are planning to vaccinate those at greatest risk for COVID based on public interactions, and inability to work from home first. It will take us weeks to get through this group.

On the data dashboard, we have thousands of remaining doses. Why haven't those been given out?

- Now that our vaccine supply has significantly increased, and as the number of seniors who are requesting vaccination appointments continues to drop, we are in a position to make them available to more Delawareans.
- We are making a strong push through the end of March to vaccinate the remaining seniors 65+ and frontline essential workers who want a vaccine, and reaching other vulnerable Delawareans.

What happens to vaccines that don't get used due to cancelled appointments? Are they thrown away at the end of the day?

- No, most vaccine vials are returned to refrigerated storage, and plans are made to use those first for the next appointments.
- The only time vaccine doses are at risk is when a vial has been pierced, and not all doses in that vial are used. Since there are only 6 doses in a vial of Pfizer and 10 in a vial of Moderna, this has not yet been an issue.

Other neighboring states have almost 20% of their population vaccinated, why is DE behind?

- According to *The New York Times*, Delaware has vaccinated 20% of our population. 67% of seniors are partially or fully vaccinated and 24% 16+ are partially or fully vaccinated.
- States fall in the range of 14-29% vaccinated, so we are not behind.
- We will continue to strive for fast and fair distribution of vaccines.
- We're especially excited about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as it only requires one dose, allowing us to get Delawareans vaccinated faster.