

## Exploring Asylum Hill – COVID Vaccine availability



As vaccines become available, it's important that as many Asylum Hill residents as possible both know who can receive them now, and where to go, first to schedule the vaccine and then where to go to get it. The purpose of this month's article is to help in that regard. First, It's important to understand that all of us will be safer when each of us is vaccinated. Based on what the medical community has learned in the past year, masks and social distancing are very effective at slowing the spread, but neither is as effective as the vaccine at preventing the consequences. We all need to heal together.

Those who can receive the vaccine now include Healthcare Personnel, Long-Term Care Facility Residents, Medical First Responders including Emergency Medical Technicians, Police, and Fire, Individuals 65 and older and residents and staff of select congregate settings.

The easiest source is Wheeler Clinic at 43 Woodland Street, where Individuals ages 65+ and Phase 1a-eligible individuals (healthcare providers and medical first responders) can now get the vaccine. Wheeler is transitioning away from the VAMS (Vaccine Administration Management System), which the others use, and setting appointments by calling their Navigation Center at 860-793-3500. When you call that number they ask you to press 2 to schedule an appointment, press 1 for the vaccine, and then 1 for English or 2 for Spanish. They then ask for your name, date of birth and phone # so that someone can call you back in the next day or so to complete the scheduling.

Saint Francis at 260 Ashley St, and Walgreens at 1291 Woodland St both use The Vaccine Administration Management System that requires appointments over the Internet. To use that method, click on <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations---VAMS-Support>. You'll be able to schedule your appointment that way, and choose whatever is most convenient for you. Be sure to bring your Photo ID, and insurance card, if you have one (not required, but helpful). Transportation can be scheduled by calling 860-757-9311. If you have any other questions or need any special assistance you can call 860-858-1410 for help from an AHNA volunteer.