

The West Virginia State Bar is sharing the following message from the West Virginia Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) on COVID-19 Vaccines. We have been working hand-in-hand with the JIATF to provide information, determine correct allocation figures, and any other needs through this process. West Virginia pandemic leadership and those at the JIATF are working to equitably and efficiently distribute COVID-19 vaccines to all who choose to receive it. The task force anticipates receiving a significant quantity of vaccine in the coming weeks to distribute through an allocation plan.

There are a number of factors that have guided the state's decision-making on the overlapping phased approach for vaccine distribution, which includes recommendations outlined by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and our own epidemiological state data. The principles in decision making for allocating the limited supplies of vaccines include protecting the most vulnerable West Virginians, reducing hospitalizations, reducing the rate of deaths, and ensuring the state and local communities can maintain critical services including our acute healthcare system.

The pandemic leadership for the State of West Virginia understands the vital role you play in maintaining our economy and the critical functions that keep West Virginia going. As such, based upon discussions with the West Virginia State Bar, we are providing you with clear and concise guidelines for the vaccine allocation process. Additional information, including frequently asked questions and the phases of vaccine distribution, are available at [vaccinate.wv.gov](http://vaccinate.wv.gov).

Included with this letter is a FAQ sheet that provides information on the vaccine and the distribution process. If after reading this document you have more questions, you can reach out to the JIATF via email at [ng.wv.wvarng.mbx.covid-jic@mail.mil](mailto:ng.wv.wvarng.mbx.covid-jic@mail.mil)

The state leadership is dedicated to being open, transparent and working with each of you throughout this process. We encourage you to continue to do your part to end the spread of COVID-19 by choosing to get vaccinated and encouraging your friends and neighbors to do the same when the vaccine is available to them. In the meantime it's essential to continue to use all the tools we have: wearing a mask, maintaining at least 6 feet of physical distance, washing your hands frequently, and avoiding crowds and indoor gatherings.

On behalf of the Task Force, thank you for your willingness to continue to serve your fellow West Virginians in this time of great need. We remain hopeful that we are turning the tide in this pandemic and it starts with each of us making the choice to do our part.