



Department of Health

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Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Provider:

As you know the vaccine allocation to New York State has become more and more scarce. As of yesterday, we had utilized all of our past allocation. The state is literally working on week-to-week allocations. Several points are now especially important to follow:

1. The vaccine must be distributed fairly. This means that eligible populations must all receive a fair allocation. There are three basic sub-groups that are now eligible: healthcare workers, certain essential workers and individuals 65 years of age and older. Healthcare workers represent approximately 21% of the eligible universe, these essential workers represent approximately 27% of the eligible population and the individuals 65+ represent approximately 52%. It is important that the proportionality is respected. The state allocated by regional population and by sub-group allocations listed above (i.e. 21%, 27% and 52%).
2. To facilitate proportional distribution, it is essential that providers follow the law on "prioritization" of populations. Local health departments and county governments receive allocation for and must prioritize essential workers in the 1b category. Hospitals receive allocations for and must prioritize healthcare workers. Pharmacies receive allocation for and are to prioritize individuals that are 65+. NYSDOH approved mass vaccination sites receive allocation for and are to prioritize 65+ and essential workers in the 1b category. We allocate doses to these provider classes to represent the fair distribution. If a provider distributes to a group outside of their "prioritization" they will disrupt the fairness of the allocation.
3. Providers, unless otherwise directed, should not schedule appointments until they receive an allocation and no more appointments should be scheduled than the actual allocation allows. Cancellation of these appointments creates more anxiety.

We are all dealing with the chaos created by the prior Federal administration allowing 7 million people to be eligible for a vaccine while only providing 250,000 doses to the state per week. Older people are all in the same class of 65+. We must do the best we can until we get through the period of utilizing these limited doses across a population of 7 million people and can then establish a more orderly system.

The guidance outlined above has been formalized through Executive Order.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of Health