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Immediate Release

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State announces transition to new COVID-19 vaccination phases

All of phases 1B and 1C are now eligible for vaccine

SANTA FE-- The New Mexico Department of Health on Friday announced that all New Mexicans in phases 1B and 1C of the state's COVID-19 [vaccine distribution plan](#) are now eligible for vaccine.

Until today, four groups were eligible for vaccine:

- Phase 1A (primarily health care workers and residents and staff of long-term care facilities)
- New Mexicans age 75 and older
- Educators, early childhood professionals, and school staff
- New Mexicans with a chronic health condition

These groups remain eligible. In addition, the following groups are now eligible:

- Frontline essential workers
- Residents of congregate care facilities
- New Mexicans age 60 and older
- Other essential workers

In total, all of Phases 1A, 1B, and 1C are now eligible. Combined, these phases represent approximately 1,620,000 out of the 1,680,605 New Mexicans who are aged 16 and over and therefore eligible for vaccine.

Phase 2 (members of the general public not included in one of the above categories) will likely become eligible in mid-late April.

Phase Transition Triggered By Key Achievement

Today's announcement comes after DOH achieved a key milestone: more than 60% of currently-eligible groups have received at least a first shot.

The phase transition was also triggered, in part, by a recognition that vaccine providers in many parts of the state are no longer able to find eligible New Mexicans to fill appointments in their area. While providers will continue to prioritize members of earlier phases in scheduling appointments, providers will now have the option of inviting New Mexicans in later phases when they cannot fill appointments otherwise.

“By expanding the pool of New Mexicans eligible for vaccine, we can keep the momentum going and ensure that New Mexico remains one of the nation’s vaccination leaders. At the same time, we will redouble our efforts to reach and vaccinate seniors and others in the early phases who have not yet received their shots,” said DOH Secretary Dr. Tracie Collins.

Continuing to Vaccinate Seniors

Among New Mexicans 75 years and older who are registered for vaccine, [approximately 73%](#) have received at least a first shot - and nearly all of the rest have been invited to schedule an appointment.

Nonetheless, DOH recognizes that some seniors - both 75+ and 60-74 with chronic conditions - have not yet received an appointment. DOH also recognizes that in some cases, seniors and other New Mexicans may require different kinds of support in order to get registered and vaccinated.

For these reasons, DOH will continue to expand its menu of supports for seniors and other New Mexicans, including:

- Vaccine registration by phone. Users who have questions or would like support with the registration process - including New Mexicans who do not have internet access - can dial 1-855-600-3453, press option 0 for vaccine questions, and then option 4 for tech support.
- Special accommodations. New Mexicans who call to register and require additional support (for example, a ride to a vaccine event or a wheelchair when they arrive at a vaccine site) will receive a call back from the Aging and Long Term Services Department or the Office of Community Health at UNM.
- Homebound vaccinations. Plans for expanded homebound vaccination opportunities will be announced in the coming days.

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NMDOH

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and gas methane regulations. New Mexico has a chance to adopt strong public health and environmental protections now for our communities and future generations.

Below please find statements from community leaders across New Mexico applauding passage of Senate Bill 8. I'm happy to help connect you if needed.

SB8 House Floor Vote Quote Sheet

Amy Miller, Manger, New Mexico Environmental Public Health Network

"Our state's experience with COVID19 has shown us that underserved communities in our state are some of the most vulnerable to the impacts of air pollution and water contamination. New Mexico deserves to be in charge of protecting its citizens' health and natural environment and Senate Bill 8 will help protect New Mexicans' health by doing just that."

JoAnna Strother, Senior Director, American Lung Association

"Air pollution can cause asthma attacks among many other lung issues. Senate Bill 8 is critical to allowing the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to address health-harming pollution and hazardous waste and protect New Mexicans from these threats."

Andrew Baker, Communications and Policy Analysis, Health Action New Mexico

"Senate Bill 8 allows New Mexicans to play a more active role in protecting our environment and advocating for our health. Local communities have to live with the outcomes of environmental regulation, and it's important that they have a say in how those regulations are written."

James Povijua, Policy Director, Center for Civic Policy

"Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by pollution and the effects of climate change. SB8 will further the environmental and health protections that our communities deserve. Passage of this legislation ensures that the state of New Mexico fulfills its duty to set strong standards to protect all New Mexicans."

Sr. Joan Brown, osf, Director NM Interfaith Power and Light

"One of the greatest responsibilities we have is to care for one another. Sometimes we do not realize we have the power to do this. Some legislation, like SB8 reminds us that we do have the power to make changes for health, a clean environment, and dignity within our communities. People of faith are grateful for the legislative leadership acting with foresight, and courage to make positive ethical change."

Jon Goldstein, Director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund

"Senate Bill 8 is vital legislation that empowers New Mexicans to make decisions about the health, clean air and water of the people of New Mexico. Thank you to Majority Leader Wirth, Senator Lopez, and Representatives Chandler and Small for championing this legislation and to the House and Senate for approval of this important bill."

Nathalie Eddy, NM field advocate, Earthworks

"For too long, the hands of state and local officials have been tied when it comes to protecting communities and New Mexico's land, air, and water from pollution, chemical contamination and other problems. By removing just four words from two laws, SB-8 will reinforce state authority to reduce the harms that frontline residents face every day."

Camilla Feibelman, Sierra Club - Rio Grande Chapter Director

“Communities have the right to clean air and water. When our agencies are limited to absent or gutted protections federally, they can’t protect those rights. The Environment Department can only act on smog pollution when a county is on the brink of noncompliance on the federal level— too late to prevent harm to people’s health. PFAS cleanup has been hampered by the total lack of standards in Washington. SB8 fixes that and protects our communities.”

Lucas Herndon, Energy & Policy Director, ProgressNow New Mexico

“It’s telling that the same international oil companies that funded Trump and his anti-climate agenda are spending so much energy and money to fight SB8 in New Mexico through their proxies like NMOGA & Power the Future. New Mexicans should direct their own policies to protect their community resources, not have them dictated by out-of-state corporations for their own financial gain.”

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