



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Kalamazoo County Announces Release of Phase 1A and Phase 1B Organization Vaccine Registration Forms on Website

Health Department and Healthcare Systems Partnering to Vaccinate More Healthcare Workers in the County

Kalamazoo, MI – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department and healthcare partners Ascension Borgess and Bronson Healthcare continue to make progress immunizing healthcare workers in Phase 1A. These organizations have been administering doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to staff and individuals in Phase 1A of vaccine distribution, which include emergency medical personnel and long-term care facility workers.

Anyone within the state specified [Priority Groups in Phase 1A](#) (see list below) is eligible to receive the vaccine.

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department has engaged directly with facilities in Kalamazoo County that employ persons in the 1A priority group to coordinate vaccination for their employees. However, if there are Kalamazoo County facilities or persons eligible in 1A who have not yet heard directly from the health department, the lead point of contact for the employer is encouraged to contact the health department by completing the online form, located on the health department's website www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19vaccine.php, to indicate their interest in receiving the vaccine. Those completing the form will be contacted by the Kalamazoo County Health Department, Ascension Borgess or Bronson Healthcare based on vaccine availability. If a healthcare organization is providing the vaccine, they will give specific instructions on how to schedule an appointment and provide upcoming clinic times. Whichever organization a person starts with for the first dose, they must schedule their second dose with the same organization. Employees are encouraged to bring their occupation or work identification badge for verification upon arrival for the vaccination appointment.

According to [guidance provided](#) by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, those who fall into the priority groups eligible in Phase 1A include:

- Physicians, nurses, or other health care providers who may interface with patients such as: physical therapists, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, social workers, discharge

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planners, patient care associates, phlebotomists, blood bank technicians, radiology technicians, or any other support staff who interfaces with patients;

- Students (medical/nursing/physician assistant/other clinical students), residents or fellows in training in any specialty program who are involved in direct patient care, and volunteers who interface directly with patients;
- Dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, and clerical staff in any area of the facility who may interface with patients;
- Hospital security guards who may interface with patients, environmental services staff in any area of facilities that may interface with patients or infectious material directly or indirectly, food service workers who may serve patients, their families, or employees;
- Pharmacists and laboratory workers (even if they do not interface with patients);
- Outpatient substance use disorder treatment facilities or other outpatient settings including, dialysis centers, rehabilitation centers, urgent care clinics, hyperbaric centers, infusion centers, rehabilitation facilities, or any other area that is involved in direct patient care whose job location may not be physically connected to a hospital.

Yesterday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated their vaccine priority guidance and announced the following are now eligible starting Monday, January 11 dependent on vaccine supply:

- People age 65 years or older
- Frontline, essential workers with frequent or ongoing exposure as a part of their work. This includes some, but not all essential workers previously designated in 1B. First responders, police officers, jail and prison staff, pre-K-12 teachers and childcare providers are included.

In Kalamazoo County, this represents thousands of newly eligible individuals. Vaccine availability still depends on both vaccine supply and staffing capacity. Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is currently working on planning vaccination clinics for Phase 1B (individuals and organizations) and Phase 1C Group A (individuals). A pre-registration form for organizations in Phase 1B is also launching today on the health department's website. A pre-registration form for individuals in Phase 1B (75 years old and older) and Phase 1C Group A (65-74 years old) is not yet launched.

While those individuals in Phase 1B and Phase 1C Group A are now eligible to receive the vaccine, vaccine supplies are limited. All vaccine clinics are by appointment only and are scheduled at specific times. There are no walk-in vaccination clinics. **PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registration for individuals 65 and older has not launched yet. There is no early registration or sign-up at this time. Please do not call or email for more information. The health department will notify the public via press release, social media, and website once available.**

Individuals eligible through their employment for Phase 1A and Phase 1B should expect scheduling information through their employers.

To stay informed about the COVID-19 vaccine distribution progress and estimated timelines, visit the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services website, www.kalcounty.com/COVID19, Facebook page www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS, or call the COVID-19 Call Center, 269-373-5200.

Additional Resources:

- [Kalamazoo County Health Department Vaccination Website](#)
- [Michigan updated 1B vaccination information](#)
- [Michigan Prioritization Guidance](#)
- [Michigan Vaccine FAQ document](#)
- Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine

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