

Thursday January 14, 2021

## **Public Health Brief**

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## COVID-19 Vaccine - Who is Eligible?

In Alpine County, we are pleased with the overwhelming response to the availability of COVID-19 vaccine for our communities. We also want to credit our staff for working diligently to get every dose that we receive into the arms of our residents and those who work in Alpine County.

So far, we have focused our efforts on the following groups:

- Healthcare workers including 911 first responders
- All individuals >75 years of age
- Persons 65-74 years of age with underlying serious medical conditions
- Persons with occupational risk, especially education, emergency services, and food services

All persons eligible for vaccine must live or work in Alpine County, and meet the age, medical condition, or occupational requirements for eligibility.

There is only one route to obtain approval – persons must call our Warm Line, 530-694-1011, leave a message, and be interviewed by our staff for eligibility prior to receiving an appointment.

You have probably seen lots of press in the last few days pressuring local governments to get out the vaccine, increasing availability to those down to 65 years of age, persons of any age with underlying medical conditions and other business sectors. By the end of next week, we will not have any remaining supply for the first dose unless the federal and state government speeds up allocations and delivery to counties. We are being pushed to deliver something that we do not have and are not willing to overpromise and underdeliver.

Therefore, we ask for your patience. Because we do not have a hospital or long-term care facility, we have been able to reach into populations before other counties and have voiced the need for local flexibility with the state. We recognize that a dose in the freezer does no one any good – it must be in someone's arm. However, before we can do that, we must have the product to deliver. Be assured that as soon as things change, you will be the first to know. We ask that you do not call the Warm Line repeatedly for updates but refer you to the Alpine County Website: <a href="COVID-19">COVID-19</a> | Alpine County, CA - Official Website

