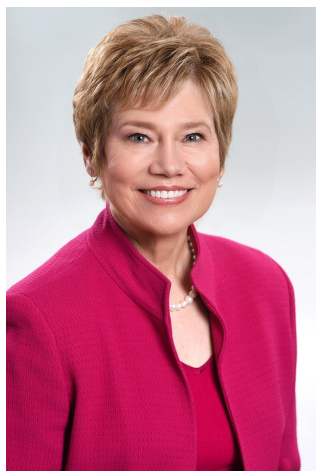


February 4, 2021



**Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.**  
*Commissioner, Georgia Department  
of Public Health*

Dear COVID Vaccine Providers:

I want to thank each of you for the work you are doing to vaccinate Georgians against COVID-19. We are making significant progress in our vaccination efforts; to date, more than 1 million doses of vaccine have been administered in Georgia.

We are currently in Phase 1A+ of vaccine administration. The list of individuals eligible for vaccination includes:

Healthcare workers in clinical settings (e.g., nurses, physicians, EMS, laboratory technicians, environmental services)

Staff and residents of long-term care facilities

All law enforcement and fire personnel (including volunteer departments, dispatchers and first responders)

Adults aged 65 and older (and their caregivers, as applicable)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines caregivers as:

Caregivers provide care to people who need some degree of ongoing assistance with everyday tasks on a regular or daily basis. The recipients of care can live either in residential or institutional settings, range from children to older adults, and have chronic illnesses or disabling conditions.

Note that for purpose of vaccination under Phase 1A+, we are referring to caregivers who care for people aged 65 and older.

The Georgia Department of Public Health will notify COVID vaccine providers when to move to the next phase of vaccine administration. Moving to other phases without approval from DPH is a violation of the vaccine provider agreement which could lead to termination of the agreement with the provider.

There have been many media reports and questions around vaccinating out-of-state residents. Each state is allocated vaccine, based on adult population, by the federal government. The vaccine allocated to Georgia is for Georgia residents, with some limited exceptions. For example, if someone lives in Alabama but works at a medical facility in Georgia that is vaccinating its employees, or people who live in Georgia during the winter months, or people who are currently residing in Georgia for an extended period to care for an elderly and/or sick relative.

Vaccine providers in Georgia should not be vaccinating people from other states, just because our eligibility phase is different (e.g., all 65+ individuals), or because they were able to get an appointment in Georgia and not in their own state. Our intent is not to make providers "vaccine police," but rather to ensure Georgians are prioritized for COVID vaccination in Georgia.

DPH is updating its process for ordering and fulfilling vaccination requests. This new process considers more factors (provider vaccine inventory, provider vaccine administration, provider orders/requests, and demographics). It is essential that providers submit orders and administration data in a timely and accurate manner to ensure receipt of vaccine for administration. Weekly vaccine requests must be submitted **no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesdays**.

DPH will continue to enroll vaccine providers, however until our allocations of vaccine from the federal government increase, we will not ship vaccine to new providers.

Thank you for your on-going partnership with DPH and all that you are doing to support our COVID vaccine efforts. The Department stands ready to help you in any way possible.

Sincerely,



Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner and State Health Officer

**Georgia Department of Public Health**

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