



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

MICHAEL P. HEIN
Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 11, 2021

Dear Social Services District Commissioners and Providers of Homeless Housing and Supportive Housing:

Additional guidance has been released by the Department of Health to expand the prioritized populations eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. The guidance can be accessed at:

- <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/guidance-for-week-5-oasas-ocfs-omh-otda-1.11.21.pdf>
- <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/guidance-for-facilities-receiving-covid19-vaccine-1.11.21.pdf>

As noted in the guidance, prioritized populations now include:

- Residents of congregate facilities that house individuals and families experiencing homelessness where residents must share sleeping quarters, restrooms and/or eating space.
- Staff (paid and unpaid) with potential interaction with the residents of congregate facilities that house individuals and families experiencing homelessness where residents must share sleeping quarters, restrooms and/or eating space.
- Residents of unlicensed congregate supportive housing.
- Staff (paid and unpaid) with potential interaction with residents of unlicensed congregate supportive housing locations.

We encourage you to review all the guidance documents on the Department of Health's [website](#). We would like to draw your attention to some important points:

- Providers of prioritized settings and programs should work with their local health departments, hospitals and FQHCs to identify vaccination sites available to them and their staff. Additionally, the following link can be used to make appointments for eligible employees and service recipients/residents: <https://am-i-eligible-qa.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
- All individuals receiving the COVID-19 vaccine must complete the New York State COVID-19 Vaccine Form for the first dose (see <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/vaccine>) to attest to eligibility for the vaccine. Housing providers should assist residents and staff to complete this form.
- When scheduling vaccines, housing providers should discuss what identification or documentation of individuals is needed and determine if they can provide a list of eligible staff and residents to meet this requirement.

- Providers should communicate with residents and staff regarding the need to sign consent to receive the vaccine and coordinate with the vaccine provider to have forms completed in advance of the vaccination appointment.
 - https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/final_covid-19_vaccine_consent_form.pdf
- Housing providers are required to track uptake and declinations of residents and staff. Additional information on the protocols for recording and reporting this information will be provided soon.

Attached is an invitation for a webinar regarding vaccine distribution being held by the New York State Department of Health (see attached) at 7:00. The webinar can be accessed at <http://ny.gov/vaccinateny>.

Please share this information with others in your network. Social Services Commissioners are asked to share this information with all known congregate facilities that house individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including Code Blue shelters.

We are pleased that these vulnerable populations and staff are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and appreciate your efforts to support the vaccination effort.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Hein
Commissioner

Attachment