

What's New This Week

The [Vaccine Summary Dashboard](#) continues to show **Virginia's significant progress in vaccinations**. As of today, **Virginia ranks 7th among all states** for percent of the population that has received at least one dose, and **11th among all states for percent of available doses administered**. Nearly **9 in 10 available first doses have been administered**. (It is important to note that the number of doses shown as being "received" by hospitals and local health districts does not account for the doses they then redistribute to other partners such as physicians and pharmacies.)

As part of a federal retail pharmacy program, **36 CVS Pharmacy locations in Virginia are now receiving a total of 26,000 first doses** beyond Virginia's normal allocation. Initially, the Commonwealth's goal was for CVS to offer these appointments directly to people age 65 and older who were already on local health district waiting lists, rather than opening a new signup system for the public. Unfortunately, CVS was unable to find a way to do this within the technical limits of their appointment system. Although the CVS form requires the user to acknowledge that they are at least 65 years of age and on a local health district waiting list, there is no automated connection between the two systems. CVS opened their system on February 9, and all appointments quickly filled up. Anyone 65 or older who is on a local health department waiting list can check [cvs.com](https://www.cvs.com) regularly as additional appointments become available. The number of weekly doses and retail locations as part of this program are expected to increase in the coming weeks, and the Commonwealth will continue to help CVS select locations based on equity indicators.

All local health districts currently have clear information on their websites about vaccine eligibility, and how eligible individuals can pre-register online or by phone. **A new statewide pre-registration system** will launch next week to improve the consistency of this process and allow individuals to confirm their pre-registration status at any time.

Assistance in English, Spanish, and other languages is available through the VDH Call Center at **877-ASK-VDH3 (877-275-8343)**. New representatives are being trained to **exponentially expand call center capacity** next week. This will help ensure that callers can get timely assistance with questions and pre-registration.

All local health districts in Virginia are in [Phase 1b of vaccine eligibility](#). This means that approximately 50% of Virginia's population is now eligible, including frontline essential workers, people aged 65 years and older, people with high-risk medical conditions identified by the CDC, and people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and migrant labor camps. Other than the healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities in Phase 1a, the Virginians in Phase 1b are at the highest risk of exposure to COVID-19 or serious illness if infected.

While local health districts are allowed flexibility in how doses are administered to eligible individuals, **roughly half of the available supply should be used for people aged 65 or older**. The other half should be used for frontline essential workers, people with high-risk medical conditions as [identified by the CDC](#); and people in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and migrant labor camps. Frontline essential workers should be prioritized in the order listed in the [Phase 1b details](#).

There are simply not enough doses available yet for everyone who is eligible to receive them. Virginia is not likely to meet the demand for Phase 1b until March or April.

