

CHENANGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Chenango County Health Department Nursing Division
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OLDER ADULTS AND ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINE

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to help prevent getting sick from COVID-19. Risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age. Therefore, the **CDC recommends that *adults 65 years and older* are one of the first groups to receive COVID-19 vaccines.** That said, it might take time before there is enough vaccine for everyone who wants to be vaccinated. It is important that seniors know what to do to access vaccine now and in the coming weeks.

The situation for adults 65 and older can be a challenging one. Many people in the 65 and older group have not yet sought out vaccine due to the many barriers that exist to vaccine access. The process of making an appointment to be vaccinated often takes substantial time, computer technology, and a willingness to use the internet or email. It also takes a rapid digital connection, the time to refresh the link to an appointment site or hold on the phone for long periods of time, the ability to travel to a vaccination site that may be far away, or the computer knowledge to navigate through websites, and medical screening questions. For some, this process is impossible without help.

If you have a parent or relative who is 65 and older, please offer to help them to get on a waiting list or help them to find a vaccine appointment on the computer if you are able. Once vaccine is received at the health department, an email link will go out to register for an appointment to be vaccinated – first come, first serve. Many pharmacies require an online registration to sign up for a vaccine appointment. Many seniors need help with this process.

The Chenango County Department of Health has been working with Bartle's Pharmacy and the Area Agency on Aging to help solve some of these issues that seniors are having with making vaccine appointments. We feel we must prioritize the needs of our seniors and do the best we can to improve access to vaccines for the 65 plus population.

According to Governor Cuomo's guidance from March 1, 2021 the Local Health Departments MAY receive a week-to-week supplemental allocation to vaccinate the 65 plus population. Once vaccine supply is received things will move quickly. If you are already on our waiting list, please be patient and check your email and telephone messages often for further information. We will continue to do a vaccine update every Tuesday. It will be posted on Facebook, our website and sent out to local media outlets. We remain hopeful that increasing supplies of vaccine will be sent to us in the upcoming weeks and months.

Here are some resources for age 65 plus to be vaccinated:

NYS Am I eligible site: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
Or call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

Chenango County waitlist for those in 1A and 1B/ including age 65 Plus group:
Email name, D.O.B, address, phone number and eligibility criteria to
COVID19@co.chenango.ny.us Or call 337-1660 to go on our other waiting list for those without email/ internet or computers.

Bartle's Pharmacy in Oxford NY: to be added to their waiting list email
Bartlespharmacy63@gmail.com must be 65 plus, and include contact information

Veterans: Call Syracuse VA Medical Center hotline at 1-315-425-4488,
Binghamton VA Clinic 670-772-9100 ext. 53126, or Chenango County Veterans
Services at 607-337-1775

For UHS you may call 607-337-4888

For BASSETT you may call the information line at 605-547-5555

To view the Southern Tier Vaccinations locations (Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, and Tompkins: visit
www.nyuhs.org/southerntiervax

Persons with questions or requiring additional information may contact the
Chenango County Health Department at **(607) 337-1660**.

Promoting and protecting health, safety, and the quality of life in Chenango County