

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact:**

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Health Department Seeking Phase 1a Healthcare Workers Ready to Get COVID-19 Vaccine

Eau Claire, WI, January 6, 2021 – Eau Claire City-County Health Department is putting out a call to organizations with healthcare workers who do not work for one of our major health care systems and who haven't made other arrangements to get their staff vaccinated for COVID-19. Our goal is to have as complete of a list as possible of "unaffiliated" healthcare organizations/individuals in Eau Claire County. This list will serve as our primary tool in matching Phase 1a healthcare organizations and their employees to State approved vaccinators who are receiving vaccine in Eau Claire County. The goal is to efficiency get this population vaccinated.

If your organization employs any of the following workers, a designated contact person from your organization should fill out this survey with information about your organization and the number of individuals who plan to get vaccinated: <http://bit.ly/EC-COVIDVac>. Health Department staff will use this information to arrange vaccination with our multiple vaccinators in the County. Entities are not required to work with their "matched" vaccinator but we are all collaborating to try to make this as simple and streamlined as possible for the 1a "unaffiliated" organizations. More information is at our COVID-19 website covid19eauclaire.org. Examples of Phase 1a entities/individuals who can get vaccinated now:

- Behavioral health offices/clinics
- Blood donation facilities
- Chiropractors
- Dental services, including dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistants
- Direct care personnel, for example, people who provide direct care to patients, including in their homes (for example, personal care assistant, home health worker)
- Emergency medical service responders (EMR), including emergency medical technician, paramedic, and all levels of EMRs
- Eye clinics
- Hospice workers
- Independent imaging providers
- Indirect care personnel such as environmental services, food/nutrition, buildings and grounds maintenance workers in patient care settings
- Long-term care facilities staff
- Mortuary services
- Nurses in community settings, including school nurses and nursing assistants/aids
- Pharmacist/pharmacy technician and pharmacy retail staff
- Physicians, physician assistant/nurse practitioners
- Physical therapy providers
- Primary care clinics and physician offices
- Social work, case management
- Transportation services to and from health care settings, for example, testing sites, dialysis centers, ambulatory care
- Others with direct patient care

This is not an exhaustive list. For a full description of who is in Phase 1a, see the Wisconsin State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee guidance at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02858.pdf>. Eau Claire County organizations who have questions about Phase 1a eligibility can email the Health Department at ehealth@co.eau-claire.wi.us.

The Health Department is also now one of the approved vaccinators in Eau Claire County. We join with the other State-approved vaccinators in getting this population vaccinated.

Why are these organizations able to get vaccine now? The Health Department, along with area healthcare systems and other approved vaccinators in the county are following the federal and state requirements for which groups can get vaccine at this time. These employees are at higher risk of getting COVID-19 because of their direct contact with others.

Vaccine is not yet available to the general public. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) and check our website [covid19eauclaire.org](https://www.covid19eauclaire.org) often for updates. We will share information broadly online and through the media when more groups are able to get vaccine.

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