



Erie County  
Department of  
Health



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABILITY STATEMENT FROM THE ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ERIE COUNTY, NY – The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) is providing the following statement regarding the availability of COVID-19 vaccine at our PODs – points of dispensing.

Beginning at 4 p.m. on Monday, January 11, the NYSDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline will open for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

All vaccinations are by appointment only. ECDOH has a limited amount of vaccine and appointments through Tuesday, January 12 for Phase 1A individuals. Future POD schedules will depend on the amount of COVID-19 vaccine provided by New York State. Sign up to be notified of future Erie County PODs at <https://www3.erie.gov/form/covid-19-vaccine-notification-fo>.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Vaccine Eligibility Form incorrectly lists the ECDOH main phone number, (716) 858-7690, and Sexual Health Clinic, as a local provider for vaccine. This is incorrect information and ECDOH is working to have NYSDOH fix this as soon as possible.

**Our department is not making vaccination appointments over the phone at this time.** Please do not call our COVID-19 Information Line or main office for vaccine scheduling. As of Monday morning, these calls are interfering with the ability to schedule Erie County residents for COVID-19 diagnostic testing and other general questions.

“We realize that there is intense interest in getting the COVID-19 vaccine,” said **Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein**. “Right now, we need to temper that interest with patience. Our supply of vaccine is extremely limited. As Governor Cuomo has stated, it will take months to work through the Phase 1A and 1B populations.”

Other information from NYS:

- Health care workers who are part of Phase 1a will continue to be vaccinated at hospitals and other clinical settings.
- People age 75 and over will primarily be vaccinated at pharmacies and other sites that are part of the “retail network.” Use the online tool to find a location.

- Public employees (for example, police departments, public school teachers and MTA employees) will primarily be vaccinated through their groups' relevant health programs or as organized by their unions.

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**NYSDOH Vaccine Eligibility Prescreen Form:** <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/Public/prescreener>

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