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## Press Release

Date: January 4, 2021

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### COVID-19: VACCINE AVAILABILITY

Berlin, NH – While there is broad support for health care providers and nursing home residents to be among the first to receive the Covid-19 vaccine, community members are asking when will the vaccine be available to the general public?

As it turns out, the answer is complicated, and depends upon a variety of factors, most of which are outside the control of local health officials.

According to Ken Gordon, CEO of Coos County Family Health Services (CCFHS), health care organizations in the region “are prepared to administer the vaccine to area residents when additional supplies of the vaccine become available, and when federal and state officials authorize them to do so.”

“We have partnered for decades with the NH Department of Health and Human Services to administer vaccines to area residents,” said Patty Couture, CCFHS Chief Operating Officer. We’ve added additional refrigeration capacity to accommodate supplies of the Covid-19 vaccine, and will move quickly to make the vaccine available to area residents when given the green light.”

The State of New Hampshire has developed a vaccine distribution plan that has been approved by the US Centers for Disease Control. The plan calls for a phased distribution of the vaccine based upon a number of factors including age, health status, workplace risk, and other circumstances.

Dr. William Gessner, Chief Medical Officer at Coos Family Health, explained that it will likely be “several months before the vaccine is available for distribution to healthy individuals,” and encouraged “patience, consideration for the needs of others, and adherence to current masking, social distancing and hand washing recommendations.”

“When the vaccine becomes available for distribution to the general public later this year, it will likely be distributed by CCFHS, AVH, pharmacies and at other sites,” said Gordon. “Local residents should expect to hear more news about the State’s distribution plan in the coming weeks, and should understand that the region’s health care providers are prepared to act quickly when authorized to do so.”



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More information about Covid-19 and the State's Vaccine Distribution Plan can be found at the NH Department of Health and Human Services' website at <https://www.nh.gov/covid19>.

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