

IAAP members: COVID-19 vaccination roll-out information

New information since the last update from the IAAP is highlighted in yellow.

In a press release on March 18th from the Office of the Governor, it stated: “Thanks to an increased allocation of vaccine doses from the federal government, all Illinois residents will be eligible to receive the vaccine beginning April 12th. At that date, all state-supported mass vaccination sites, local health departments, pharmacy partners – in short, every jurisdiction that receives vaccine from the State of Illinois’ allocation – will be instructed to move to widespread eligibility.

Currently, all vaccines are administered by appointment only. While vaccine eligibility is expanding on April 12th, making an appointment to receive a shot may take time. Information regarding vaccination locations as well as details on how to book an appointment to receive the vaccine can be found at the state’s COVID website, coronavirus.illinois.gov. Residents who don’t have access to or need assistance navigating online services can call the toll-free IDPH hotline at 833-621-1284 to book an appointment. The hotline is open 7 days a week from 6am to midnight with agents available in English and Spanish.

Illinoisans who are not currently eligible to receive the vaccine cannot schedule an appointment for a future date. Residents are encouraged to be patient in the days and weeks following April 12th as vaccination appointments may be limited.

To date, the FDA has authorized the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in 16- and 17-year-olds as well as adults. The Johnson & Johnson and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are currently FDA authorized for use in those 18 and older.”

This press release also includes announcement of a metrics-based, vaccination-informed framework for Illinois to advance to Phase 5 of the state’s Restore Illinois Plan. Read the plan here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/IISNews/22961-A Bridge to Phase 5.pdf>

All counties in Illinois are in Phase 1b+ of the State’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and it’s been reported that some counties are offering vaccines to individuals in Phase 1c. *Watch for news reports and check your county’s website for more details.*

The federal government’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has made recommendations for which industries and workers will be included in Phase 1b & Phase 1c. Illinois has outlined Phase 1a, 1b and 1b+. Determine if you are eligible for 1a or 1b+ vaccines here: <https://covidvaccination.dph.illinois.gov/>

Follow this link from the CDC to learn how the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines work: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/healthcare-professionals-mRNA.pdf>

CDC information on vaccine safety: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

CDC information on vaccine effectiveness: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html>

Essential workers COVID-19 vaccine toolkit from the CDC is here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/toolkits/essential-workers.html>

The IAAP has been monitoring State of Illinois and Federal plans and assembled the following guides for Phase 1b & 1c, from the most recent guidance for Illinois released on February 25th.

Phase 1b	Phase 1c
<p>In Illinois, Phase 1b includes Frontline Essential workers, anyone age 65 or older, and persons age aged 16 to 64 years old with medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19.</p> <p>High-risk medical conditions include obesity, diabetes, pulmonary disease, heart condition including hypertension, kidney disease, cancer, immunocompromised, sickle cell, pregnancy, Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), Diabetes, and Heart Condition. (Note: To date, only Pfizer has been authorized for those ages 16 and up, whereas Johnson & Johnson and Moderna are authorized for those ages 18 and up.)</p> <p>According to the federal government, Frontline Essential workers include people working in the manufacturing industry (including mining) that cannot maintain six feet or more distance from each other or the public.</p> <p>The Federal Department of Homeland Security’s definition of Critical Manufacturing includes, “Workers necessary for mining and production of critical minerals, materials and associated essential supply chains, and workers engaged in the manufacture and</p>	<p>Most workers in the mining industry should be eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1c as Essential Manufacturing workers.</p> <p>Guidance for Illinois states, “Phase 1c: (Is still in draft form based on ACIP recommendations. Further updates to be released for Phase 1c for the context of Illinois)” but now includes: Other essential workers, who do not work remotely, and may include Transportation and Logistics, Food Service, Housing (e.g., Construction), Finance (e.g., Bank Tellers), Information Technology and Communication, Energy, Media, Legal, Public Safety (e.g., Safety Engineers), Water and Wastewater, Public Health Workers</p> <p>More details will need to be fleshed-out for Phase 1c.</p>

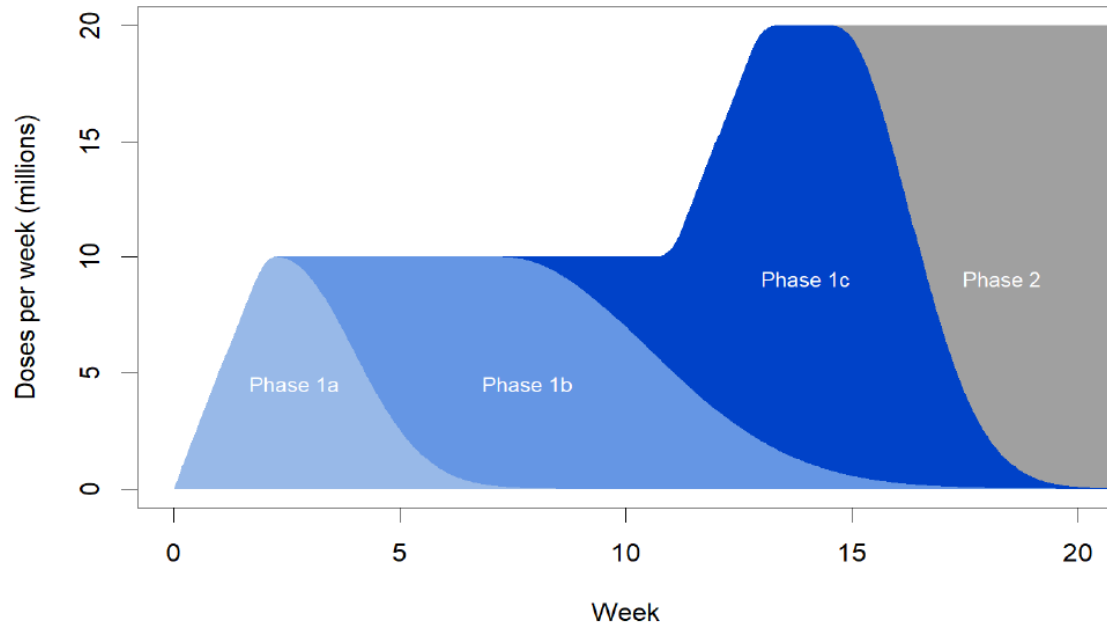
<p>maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary for mining production and distribution.”</p> <p>It’s not clear that Illinois will include people working in the manufacturing industry, even if they cannot maintain six feet or more of distance from other workers.</p> <p>At the bottom of this webpage https://covidvaccination.dph.illinois.gov/, follow the link to determine if you qualify to be immunized in Phase 1b.</p>	
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Finally, Phase 2 will begin inoculation of the rest of the population.

Based on information from the IDPH, the IAAP recommends that mining companies, and companies providing equipment and maintenance services to the industry, begin prioritizing their employees **who wish to receive vaccines**. These employees should be listed from high-risk to low-risk and in what Phase (1b or 1c) you believe they should be immunized based on their age, ability to social distance while working, interaction with the public, and pre-existing conditions. Employees that interact with the public are expected to be at higher risk than employees that do not interact with many people; however, pre-existing conditions of any employee should be considered as well. Employees should also be categorized by the County in which they work because County health departments will be responsible for coordinating local distribution and setting up immunization centers. As you compile your company’s list, reach out to your county health department to discuss vaccinations for your essential workers in the appropriate phase. Most county healthy departments are establishing their own vaccination appointment registration systems. A listing of local health departments can be found here: http://www.idph.state.il.us/IDPHPrograms/v_LHDDirectory/Show-V-LHDDirectory-Public.aspx. Then provide your employees with information about where to go for their vaccine.

NIOSH has indicated they can help companies with mass vaccination plans and information for your employees on the benefits and risks of vaccination.

Based on current projections of available vaccines, and if vaccine supply is sufficient for all who qualify in each phase, the following graphic projects when each phase of the vaccination distribution will begin. The IDPH anticipates it will take months to complete vaccinating everyone eligible in Phase 1b. Phases will overlap because each person must receive two shots a number of weeks apart and supply may be greater than demand in a phase.



The IAAP will continue to provide you with updates as additional information becomes available. You can read the current COVID-19 Vaccination Plan from the State of Illinois by following this link: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccination-plan>