



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

154 Medical Park Loop • Sylva, NC 28779

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Shelley Carraway  
DIRECTOR

**For Immediate Release: January 5, 2021**

**To: Jackson County Community & Stakeholders**

**From: Jackson County Department of Public Health**

**Re: Jackson County Department of Public Health Prioritizes COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign, Continues to Provide Other Services**

The Jackson County Department of Public Health (JCDPH) is following the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The vaccine will be available to all who want it but supplies will be limited at first. The best way to fight COVID-19 is to start first with vaccinations for those most at risk, then reach more people as vaccine supply increases throughout 2021. Vaccination will begin with Phase 1a and progress to 1b, 2, 3, and 4.

- Phase 1a: Healthcare workers fighting COVID-19 and long-term care staff and residents
- Phase 1b: Adults 75 years or older and frontline workers
  - Group 1: Anyone 75 years or older, regardless of health status or living situation
  - Group 2: Healthcare workers and frontline essential workers (first responders, fire fighters, police officers, corrections officers, food and agriculture workers, US Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those in the education sector as well as child care workers) 50 years or older
  - Group 3: Healthcare workers and frontline essential workers of any age
- Phase 2: Adults at high risk for exposure and at increased risk of severe illness
- Phase 3: Students
- Phase 4: Everyone who wants a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination

JCDPH is currently vaccinating those who fall into Phase 1a. We will update the public as we transition to subsequent Phases via our website at <http://health.jacksonnc.org/covid19>, Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/JacksonCoDPH>, and through our local news outlets.

As we transition to this next stage of response, JCDPH must focus on what's most important in ensuring the recovery of our community. Our main focus will be on our COVID-19 vaccination campaign, COVID-19 positive case investigation, and contact tracing on priority cases. Due to the dramatic increase in positive cases reported to JCDPH, our capacity is diminished and we cannot assure that we will be able to reach cases and contacts in a timely manner. We ask that our community does their part by doing the following:

- **Always follow the 3Ws** as they are the best public health tools we have to prevent COVID-19. Wear a cloth face covering. Wait 6 feet apart. Wash your hands.
- **Download SlowCOVIDNC.** This exposure notification app will notify you if you have been in close contact with someone who has shared a positive COVID-19 test result via the app.
- **Seek COVID-19 testing if sick or exposed.** Visit <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing/find-my-testing-place> to find a testing site near you.



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- **If you test positive for COVID-19, let those you have been around know.** This simple phone call can help break the chain of transmission and slow the spread of COVID-19.
- **Get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is your turn.**

For more information, visit JCDPH's website at <http://health.jacksonnc.org/covid19> or call the Jackson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 828-631-HELP.

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