



# Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

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Commissioner

## Memo

**To:** Facility Directors, Facility Managers, Bureau of Health Services

**From:** Felicia A. B. Reid, *Acting Deputy Commissioner*, DJJOY

**Date:** January 11, 2021

**Re:** **Phase 1A COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Facility Staff**

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This memo summarizes [guidance](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/guidance-for-week-5-oasas-ocfs-omh-otda-1.11.21.pdf) (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/01/guidance-for-week-5-oasas-ocfs-omh-otda-1.11.21.pdf>) issued January 11, 2021 by the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) relating to vaccine prioritization expansion of Phase 1A, to include OCFS DJJOY facility staff. You should have received a notice of a call at 3p today from Associate Commissioner MacGiffert, for further discussion.

### Who

As of January 11, 2021, **only DJJOY staff who work in residential facilities** with direct and regular youth interaction are included in Phase 1A of the vaccine prioritization. Youth and other DJJOY non-facility staff will be included in a later phase, to be addressed at that time.

### What

The FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for two vaccines for use in the prevention of COVID-19: a vaccine developed by Moderna and a vaccine developed by Pfizer. Both vaccines require **two doses**.

### When and Where

DJJOY has been coordinating with NYS DOH and county local departments of health (LDHs) so that DJJOY facility staff can be vaccinated. County vaccine providers will have available either the Moderna vaccine or the Pfizer vaccine, or both. Associate Commissioners Tomassone and MacGiffert will work with facility directors to prioritize the order, by role, in which staff can make an appointment to be vaccinated. The associate commissioners, along with the facility managers, will notify each grouping of staff when they can make an appointment. The notification will include direction on how to make an appointment and what to bring.

For some counties, the LDH is coordinating vaccination via a county portal; other counties will rely on the NYS DOH portal. The associate commissioners, along with the facility managers, will communicate with each facility which portal applies to its staff.

Please be aware that, even though facility staff are in Phase 1A, vaccination is subject to the local available supply of vaccine and there may be wait times as NYS DOH and/or LDHs prioritize individuals.

### Important

Although the vaccines work to prevent illness due to COVID-19, a fully-vaccinated person may still transmit the virus to others. As the state works to widely roll out the vaccines, not everyone will have access to or receive the vaccine all at once. Facilities **will** continue to comply with all DJJOY COVID-related guidance and protocols until directed otherwise. This includes gate screening, mask wearing, frequent hand-washing/sanitizing, cleaning, and maintaining social distance where able. Vaccine access does not mean a relaxation of vigilance.

If there are any questions as Phase 1A rolls out or regarding staff vaccinations, lift these up timely to your facility manager and/or at DJJOY's weekly state-wide COVID-19 call.

**CC:**

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