



DDSN Executive Memo

To: Executive Directors/CEOs of DSN Boards,
Private Provider Executive Directors/CEOs

From: DDSN Emergency Operations Center

Date: March 2, 2021

Re: Vaccine Availability Open to Entire Special Needs Population on March 8

This morning, Governor Henry McMaster and Dr. Edward Simmer, Director of the Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC), announced that on Monday March 8, 2021, South Carolina would open vaccine eligibility phase 1.b. Phase 1.b. includes all South Carolinians with developmental or other severe high risk disabilities.

From the announcement:

Beginning March 8, appointments to get the COVID-19 vaccine can be made by people in the following groups:

- **Anyone aged 55 and up**
- **People with increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease**
 - People aged 16-64 with one or more of the following high-risk medical conditions:
 - Cancer (current, not a history of cancer), chronic kidney disease (any stage), chronic lung disease, diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2), **Down syndrome**, heart disease (congestive heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary hypertension), HIV/AIDS, solid organ transplant, obesity (BMI >30), pregnancy, sickle cell disease.
 - **People who have a developmental or other severe high-risk disability that makes developing severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection more likely**
- **Frontline workers with increased occupational risk**

Frontline workers with increased occupational risk are people who:

 - Must be in-person at their place of work, and
 - Perform a job that puts them at increased risk of exposure due to their frequent, close (less than 6 feet) and ongoing (more than 15 minutes) contact with others in the work environment

Examples of frontline workers include, **but are not limited to**, school staff and daycare workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, law enforcement officers, etc.

- **Individuals at increased risk in settings where people are living and working in close contact**
 - **Residents and workers in group home settings for the mentally or physically disabled or those with behavioral or substance abuse conditions**
 - Workers and residents in homeless shelters
 - **Workers and residents in community training homes**
 - State and local correctional facility staff with direct inmate contact
 - Correctional and immigration detention facility inmates
 - Migrant farmworkers living in shared housing or reliant on shared transportation
- **All workers in healthcare and community health settings who have routine, direct patient contact and were not vaccinated in Phase 1a**

This announcement opens eligibility to all supported individuals and staff in residential settings as well as those individuals living at home.

Individuals and staff can begin making appointments for vaccinations through the DHEC Vax Locator (<https://vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov/>) beginning on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Stay Safe.