



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCDHEC OPENS VACCINATIONS TO GROUP 1B

SCDHEC announced on Monday that with the increased supply of vaccine and progress in vaccinating people in group 1a (front line health care workers and those age 65 and over), South Carolina is ready to move on to the next phase. This plan prioritizes those with greatest risk, while ensuring equitable access to the vaccine for every South Carolinian age 16 and over.

This approach continues to recognize that risk of hospitalization and death from COVID worsens with age, especially for those over 45, and that people with certain medical conditions and occupational exposures are at higher risk. As a result, SCDHEC will move to phase 1b as described below.

Individuals in Phase 1b can make appointments beginning March 8, 2021. Phase 1b includes individuals aged 55 and older, individuals with increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease, frontline workers with increased occupational risk, individuals at increased risk in settings where people are living and working in close contact and all workers in health care and community health settings who have routine, direct patient contact and were not vaccinated in phase 1a.

You can register through SCDHEC's new scheduling system using the following link:

<https://cvas.dhec.sc.gov/health/covidvaccinescheduling>.

The Colleton Health Department will offer first dose vaccination clinics on March 5th, 8th and 12th, 2021. There will be a corresponding second dose clinic 28 days following each first dose clinic. The link above can be used to register.

Walgreens (1326 N. Jefferies Blvd., Walterboro) is providing vaccines for individuals aged 65 and older and phase 1a. You can register with Walgreens at the following URL: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19>.

CVS (555 Robertson Blvd., Walterboro) is providing vaccines for individuals aged 65 and older and phase 1a. You can register with Walgreens at the following URL: <https://www.cvs.com/vaccine/intake/store/cvd-schedule?icid=coronavirus-lp-vaccine-sd-statetool>

Walterboro Family Care (457 Spruce St., Walterboro) is providing vaccines. You can register with Walterboro Family Care by calling their office at 843-781-7428. They will register you in VAMS (which requires an email address) and then VAMS will email you a registration link that you can use to register for the Walterboro Family Care vaccination site (or any other vaccination sites statewide).

You can continue to track vaccination sites at <https://www.scdhec.gov/vaxlocator>.

More information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine can be found by following the link below.

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine>

"With the lifting of restrictions on bars, restaurants, and gatherings this week as well as the transition to Phase 1b next week, it is important to remember that our fight against COVID-19 is not over. Public health officials at SC DHEC continue to encourage citizens to wear face coverings, practice 'social distancing,' and avoid crowds, even after you have received the vaccine," said Fire-Rescue Chief Barry McRoy. "Until enough of us get vaccinated, we must continue these protective measures and get tested for COVID-19 to help reduce the spread of the disease and identify the presence of variants as early as possible," Chief McRoy added.

COLLETON COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE

Colleton County officials have been notified of 2,485 total cases of COVID-19 in Colleton County, with 139 current cases. These cases of COVID-19 are in the 29082, 29435, 29438, 29446, 29452, 29474, 29475, 29481, 29488, 29929 and 29945 ZIP codes. The ZIP code data for the state is available on DHEC's COVID-19 webpage, specifically on the Testing & SC Data page, underneath the county map. This can be found by following the link below.

Unfortunately, there have been a total of 98 deaths in Colleton County related to COVID-19.

<https://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/testing-sc-data-covid-19>

Colleton County residents are urged to follow the guidance of Governor McMaster and the recommendations of the CDC. This information can be accessed at colletoncounty.org/coronavirus.

GOVERNOR MCMASTER'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS

If you have questions regarding Governor McMaster's executive orders and how they relate to your business, please contact the South Carolina Department of Commerce by email at covid19sc@sccommerce.com or by phone at 803-734-2873.

Governor Henry McMaster's Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 Pandemic can be accessed by following the link below.

<https://governor.sc.gov/executive-branch/executive-orders>

Should you have any questions, please visit Colleton County Fire-Rescue's Emergency Management Division webpage at www.colletonfire.com. Colleton County Fire-Rescue's Emergency Management Division and all of our Emergency Support Function partners have been collaborating since the beginning of the pandemic and will continue to monitor COVID-19.