

*"People get ready, there's a train a coming
You don't need no baggage, just get on board"*
Curtis Mayfield

First and foremost, one thousand thank yous to the members of our Community Health Committee and the many other volunteers for assisting so many of our fellow residents in registering for the vaccine. This week, Governor Lamont announced a re-prioritization of the corona virus vaccination program.

Beginning tomorrow, Monday, March 1, individuals aged 55-64 will be eligible to register for the corona virus vaccine.

HOW DO I GET VACCINATED?

There are several ways to schedule an appointment to get vaccinated, and all require an appointment. You can go through VAMS, through a Health Care Provider, through Nutmeg Pharmacy, through CVS or Walgreens (although not at the Deep River store).

Click this link to create a VAMS Account, and then follow the instructions provided: <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine> . A unique email account for each person registering is required to use the VAMS System, and completing the registration in VAMS may take several days while the system verifies your eligibility, so it is important to begin as soon as possible.

Use the following links to search and schedule an appointment through Health Care Providers around the state:

Yale New Haven Health - <https://covidvaccine.ynhh.org/>

UConn Health - <https://health.uconn.edu/coronavirus/covid-vaccine/>

Hartford Health Care - <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/health.../coronavirus/vaccine>

Middlesex Health - <https://middlesexhealth.org/.../coronavi.../covid-19-vaccine>

Veteran's Affairs – if you receive your health care through the VA, contact your primary care provider

CVS is offering vaccinations at several locations across the state, Waterford being the closest to home. Use this link to register there:

<https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>

Nutmeg Pharmacy - register on their website at

<https://www.nutmegpharmacy.com/covid19-vaccine> or call them directly at 860-767-1389 or 860-345-3607.

Walgreens is offering vaccinations at several locations, but not yet at the Deep River store. Use this link to register with Walgreens:

<https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp>

The CT DPH has trained specialists to answer the new Vaccine Appointment Assist Line, which is available 7 days a week between 8am and 8pm to assist people with scheduling their vaccine appointment. They can be accessed by calling 877-918-2224. You can find assistance by calling 211 or visit the following website: <https://www.211ct.org/>.

As part of the re-prioritization the State has directed that local clinics, like our Health District (CRAHD) in Old Saybrook, will be dedicated clinics for pre-K through grade 12 school and childcare staff during the month of March.

Please share this information with loved ones and neighbors aged 55 and older who have not yet received their COVID-19 vaccine. If you have a neighbor or friend that needs help registering for a vaccination, please assist them with this process.

Please keep in mind that appointments become available based on the supply of vaccine doses. **Be patient, but be persistent.** This is an aggressive plan that will work, but will seem simple for some and incredibly frustrating for others (if experience proves true).

Beginning March 22, individuals aged 45-54 will be eligible to receive the corona virus vaccine, and on April 12, people aged 35-44 will become eligible. On May 3, vaccines will be made available to those aged 16-34.

The following is recently released guidance from the Dept. of Public Health:

"While the currently available COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated high efficacy at preventing severe and symptomatic COVID-19, there is currently limited information on how much the vaccines might reduce transmission and how long protection lasts. In addition, the efficacy of the vaccines against emerging COVID-19 variants is not known. At this time, vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance, and following any applicable workplace or school guidance. More information can be found on the CDC website."

Please continue to comply with all safety guidelines, we are really seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are not yet there. Wash your hands, keep your distance (6 feet!), wear your mask, and check in on your loved ones and neighbors. Our success in beating this pandemic depends on it.

Be safe, be well, be kind.

Peace,

Angus

"Perseverance, my dear Lord, keeps honour bright "

William Shakespeare - Troilus and Cressida