

# NEWS

## For Immediate Release

March 1, 2021

## **Businesses and industries in vaccine priority subgroup 2.3 encouraged to begin planning for workforce COVID-19 vaccine**

**Central District Health, Idaho** — An estimated 46 percent of people 65 years and older who are currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccine within Central District Health's (CDH) four-county jurisdiction have received their first dose since February 1, 2021. While an exact date to move to the next subgroup eligible for vaccine has not been established in Idaho, CDH is encouraging businesses and industries who are eligible next, to begin planning. According to the state's vaccine priority plan, subgroup 2.3 could become eligible in early April; however, this estimate is subject to change.

Those eligible as part of the next subgroup include frontline workers who have close and frequent contact with others as part of their regular job duties, which puts them at higher risk for exposure. Idaho National Guard Members that were not included in previous subgroups, residents of homeless shelters, ASL and other language interpreters, and cleaning and janitorial staff who work in one of the outlined industries will also be eligible under subgroup 2.3.

### **Frontline workers**

- Food and agricultural workers
  - Food processing workers, including USDA processing plant inspectors
  - Grocery, convenience store, and food pantry workers
- Manufacturing workers
- Public transit workers
- U.S. Postal Services workers
- Flight crews
- Subset of essential gas, electric, water, and telecommunications utility workers, who work indoors

### **Other people eligible in subgroup 2.3**

- Idaho National Guard (if not included in previous subgroups)
- Residents of homeless shelters
- Interpreters (ASL or other language)

- Janitorial and cleaning staff who work within any of these sectors or settings (including above)

"We recognize it will not be clear for every business as to whether they fit into this next subgroup. However, given the continued limited vaccine supply, we ask individuals and businesses who think they may qualify in this upcoming subgroup to consider the conditions they most consistently work in. Are they in close and frequent contact with other employees or the public in order to do their job? We know that people who must consistently work in these environments are at a higher risk of exposure," said Russ Duke, District Director for Central District Health.

### **What should those in subgroup 2.3 do now?**

Individuals within the 2.3 subgroup should work with their employer on how to best access vaccine when an official eligibility date is determined.

Employers and industries within the 2.3 subgroup are encouraged to consider among the following options for employees:

- Employers may encourage their employees to seek their own individual appointments through an enrolled vaccine provider when subgroup 2.3 becomes eligible. It is preferred that people make an appointment with an enrolled vaccine provider within the community they live wherever possible. Making an appointment will only be possible once the state has opened up vaccine to the 2.3 subgroup. Appointments cannot be pre-booked for this subgroup.
  - For a list of enrolled vaccine providers in Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties, visit <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine.php>
  - As a reminder, enrolled vaccine providers will ask people to bring proof of eligibility to their vaccine appointment. This may include a pay stub or other proof of employment. Additionally, proof of Idaho residency is now required. Learn more at <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/news/state-require-proof-residency-or-work-idaho-vaccine-appointments>
- Employers may establish an agreement with an enrolled vaccine provider for an on-site/mobile vaccine clinic for their employees. CDH is working to assemble a list of enrolled vaccine providers who can offer scheduled on-site/mobile vaccine clinics. **CDH anticipates this list of providers will be available later this week (week of March 1, 2021). Once ready, it will be posted to CDH's website at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine-businesses.php>** and shared through CDH's vaccine information subscriber update emails and social media channels.
  - If an employer establishes an agreement for an on-site vaccine clinic for employees, it would not prohibit employees from seeking their own vaccine appointment.

### **Assistance by phone**

For those who do not have internet or computer access in Ada, Boise, Elmore, or Valley Counties, please call the CDH Call Center to speak to one of our representatives. If you need help determining whether you qualify for vaccine once subgroup 2.3 is opened you may also call the CDH Call Center. The Call Center can be reached at 208-321-2222 Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

### **Additional resources**

Recommendations for vaccine prioritization in Idaho are made by the [COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee \(CVAC\)](#) and final decisions are made by Governor Brad Little.

To view CVAC's vaccine priority plan, visit either of the following links:

- <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CURRENT-CVAC-Vaccine-Prioritization.pdf>

- <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/covid-19-vaccination>

**For more information about COVID-19, visit  
<https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid>  
or call the CDH Call Center at 208-321-2222, Monday through Friday  
between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm**

*(Note: The call center may be closed or operate with limited hours, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, on most holidays.)*

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