



COVID-19 Vaccine Update January 12, 2021

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Community Vaccine Advisory Committee essential workforce list now includes veterinarians and veterinary staff among healthcare workers such as physicians and nurses. See the list of essential workforce [here](#) and note item 21 under “Healthcare/ Public Health.”

As a result of this designation, veterinarians and veterinary staff fall into Phase 1A’s inclusion of “Healthcare Workers” in COVID-19 vaccine priority.

Each county public health department is distributing vaccines for Phase 1A groups in accordance with local policy, but in consideration of the [CDPH guidance](#). Vaccination plans for each county are available at the [county websites](#).

The CVMA has received confirmation from members that veterinarians and veterinary staff are being vaccinated in several counties. While there is some variance in policy between counties, public health officials are generally recognizing veterinarians and veterinary staff as healthcare workers and thus are providing vaccinations.

How to Get a Vaccine

On its [Q&A webpage](#), the CDPH has the following question and answer:

How can I get the COVID-19 vaccination?

- *If you are a healthcare worker, contact your employer. If you are a Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) resident, contact your caretaker.*
- *In many parts of the state, CVS and Walgreen pharmacies will administer the vaccines to residents in long-term care and staff.*
- *Everyone else should coordinate with their healthcare providers.*

Vaccine distribution varies by county in accordance with each county’s public health department policy, and in some circumstances is limited by vaccine availability. Therefore, veterinarians and veterinary staff should contact the public health department in the county where they are employed in order to determine eligibility.

CVMA Lobbying Efforts

When COVID-19 vaccines began shipping to California, the CVMA submitted a [letter](#) to the co-chairs of the CDPH's Drafting Guidelines Work Group, reminding the Work Group that the veterinary profession is part of the essential workforce and that early vaccination of the profession is critical. The CVMA also submitted a letter to the CDPH's Community Vaccine Advisory Committee asking for consideration of early vaccination prioritization for the veterinary profession.

Additionally, the CVMA organized [extensive written public comments](#) prior to the January 6, 2021 Community Vaccine Advisory Committee meeting, and that committee subsequently posted an amendment to its essential workforce list yesterday.

The CVMA wishes to thank all of those who wrote comments to the CDPH on this important matter. To find out more information regarding receipt of vaccinations, please follow the CDPH guidance above.