



Dear State of Missouri Team Members,

Our partners throughout the state have already vaccinated thousands of our healthcare workers. This is a huge win! And the healthcare workers will continue to be vaccinated in the coming weeks. Yesterday, with Governor Parson, we announced the activation of [Phase 1B - Tier 1](#) of Missouri's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. The activation of [Phase 1B - Tier 2](#) will follow next week.

Tier 1 of Phase 1B focuses on protecting those who keep Missourians safe. This includes law enforcement, fire service, and public health professionals, among others.

Tier 2 of Phase 1B focuses on protecting those who are at increased risk for severe illness. This includes:

- Individuals aged 65 and older

and any adult with:

- Cancer;
- Chronic kidney disease;
- COPD;
- Heart conditions;
- A weakened immune system due to organ transplant;
- Severe obesity;
- Pregnancy;
- Sickle cell disease;
- Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus;
- Or intellectual and/or developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome

What I want to stress is that although initial tiers within [Phase 1B](#) are being activated, there are currently not enough vaccines for everyone included in these groups. Based on new federal guidance, we anticipate seeing additional vaccine supply soon. We are activating the next tier to ensure the greatest coverage as the supplies arrive and to allow vaccinators and organizations to plan for the next phases.

We know one of the most common questions among Missourians right now is when it will be their turn to be vaccinated. We are greatly encouraged by the interest in the vaccines from the public. Each day, our team monitors the amount of vaccine available and makes sure it is distributed so people can receive the vaccine as quickly as possible. We are thankful to our hundreds of clinical partners throughout the state who are making that happen.

Individuals in Phase 1A and Phase 1B - Tier 1 can work through their employer and/or association to access the vaccine. Individuals in Phase 1B - Tier 2 should contact their pharmacy, local public health agency or health care provider. But, the best and first resource should be [MOPStopsCovid.com](https://moplastscovid.com) to learn when vaccines may be available and how to receive them.

Thank you for all your teams do as part of this whole government approach to the COVID-19 response.

In good health,

Dr. Randall Williams

Director of the Department of Health & Senior Services