

# Press Release

Hamilton County Health Department



Web: [health.hamiltontn.org](http://health.hamiltontn.org)

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

March 3, 2021

## **Health Department Adds First Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments to the Schedule; Expands COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility to Include Phase 1C Effective March 8**

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN – The Hamilton County Health Department has added a total of 4,405 new first dose Pfizer appointment opportunities to the schedule. Hamilton County aligns with the State of Tennessee’s [Vaccination Plan](#) and expands COVID-19 eligibility to Phase 1C effective Monday, March 8.

- March 7 at CARTA Bus Barn – **Current** Phase Eligibility qualifies (1a1, 1a2, 1b and adults 65+)
- March 8-10 at CARTA Bus Barn – **Upcoming** Phase Eligibility qualifies (1a1, 1a2, 1b, **1c** and adults 65+)
- March 9 at Tennessee Riverpark– **Upcoming** Phase Eligibility qualifies (1a1, 1a2, 1b, **1c** and adults 65+)

People in the eligible phases are encouraged to visit [vaccine.hamiltontn.gov](http://vaccine.hamiltontn.gov) and make their appointment online. Those who do not have access to the internet can call the appointment call center for assistance:

- **First dose appointments: 423-209-5398**
- Second dose appointments: 423-209-5399

A Spanish vaccine webpage and Spanish appointment call center are available for residents who speak Spanish.

- Spanish appointment line: 423-209-5384
- Spanish vaccine webpage:  
[health.hamiltontn.org/enus/allservices/coronavirus\(covid19\)/vaccine/vacunacióncontracovid19.aspx](http://health.hamiltontn.org/enus/allservices/coronavirus(covid19)/vaccine/vacunacióncontracovid19.aspx)

All three call center lines are open Monday-Friday from 8AM-4PM. Due to high call volume, callers may experience a busy signal and need to hang up and call back.

General COVID-19 questions may be directed to the Health Department’s hotline at 423-209-8383. Hours are Monday-Friday from 8AM-4PM and Saturday 10AM-3PM. Bilingual representatives are available.

### **Current Phases/Eligibility**

COVID-19 vaccine appointments are for people who live or work in Hamilton County and meet current eligibility according to the Tennessee Department of Health’s [Vaccination Plan](#). A list of documents an individual may bring to the vaccination site to demonstrate Hamilton County residency or Hamilton County work status are available on the Health Department’s [FAQ page](#) in English and on the [Spanish Vaccine page](#) in Spanish. No documentation is required to demonstrate Phase 1C status.

### **Age Group Bracket:**

[HealthCommunications@HamiltonTN.gov](mailto:HealthCommunications@HamiltonTN.gov)

423.209.8383

- 65 years or older, must be a Hamilton County resident
- No specific medical conditions are required

**Phase 1a1 includes:**

- Hospital/Free-Standing Emergency Department Staff with Direct Patient Exposure and/or Exposure to Potentially-Infectious Materials
- Home health care staff
- COVID-19 mass testing site staff
- Student health providers
- Staff & Residents of Long Term Care Facilities (Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Centers, Homes for the Aged, DIDD Residential Centers, Group Homes)
- First Responders with Direct Public Exposure including Jailers
- Individuals >18yrs who cannot live independently due to serious chronic medical condition or intellectual or developmental disabilities

**Phase 1a2 includes:**

Other Health Care Workers with Direct Patient Exposure

- Primary care providers and staff
- Outpatient specialty providers and staff working with acute patients
- Pharmacists and staff
- Patient transport
- Outpatient therapists
- Urgent visit center providers and staff
- Environmental services
- Oral health providers
- Behavioral health providers
- Outpatient laboratory staff working with COVID-19 specimens
- Funeral/mortuary workers with direct decedent contact

**Phase 1B includes:**

- Childcare, pre-school, and kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers
- School staff
- School bus drivers
- Other first responders (including dispatch, administrative personnel and other emergency communications personnel not included in Phase 1a1)
- Airfield operations personnel employed by primary commercial and cargo service airports

**Effective Monday, March 8, COVID-19 vaccine eligibility will include Phase 1C:**

- Caregivers (or household residents) of medically fragile children <16 years old (such as technologically dependent individuals, immunocompromised individuals, individuals with diabetes requiring medication, individuals with complex congenital or life-threatening cardiac conditions requiring ongoing medical management, individuals qualifying for a Katie Beckett waiver)
- Chronic renal disease
- COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, Cystic Fibrosis, moderate-severe asthma
- Diabetics who take medication for their condition
- Obesity (BMI >30)

- Heart failure, CAD, cardiomyopathies, hypertension
- Sickle cell (not including sickle cell trait) or thalassemia
- Cerebrovascular disease or stroke
- Dementia
- Liver disease
- Immunocompromised or weak immune system (receiving chemotherapy, taking daily oral steroid or other immunosuppressant medication, living with HIV/AIDS, history of organ, blood or bone marrow transplant)
- Technologically dependent (such as individuals who are ventilator dependent, oxygen-dependent, with tracheostomy, chronically wheelchair-bound, require tube feedings, parenteral nutrition, or dialysis)
- Pregnancy (NOTE: The CDC and World Health Organization have advised that pregnancy puts women at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines have not been studied in pregnant women, and women who are pregnant are encouraged to discuss this decision with their medical provider.)

### **Important Information to Know Prior to Appointment**

- Do not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment.
- Wear appropriate clothing to get a shot in upper arm
- Bring proof of Hamilton County residency (if applicable)
- Bring proof of Hamilton County employment (if applicable)
- Bring proof of age (if applicable)
- Bring COVID-19 Vaccine Encounter form (if possible; form available for download on registration page)
- Be prepared to wait 20 minutes after shot
- Be prepared for the entire process to take an hour or more

### **Vaccination Record Card**

When patients receive their first dose with the Health Department, they will receive a Vaccination Record Card with the following important information.

- The vaccine manufacturer (either Moderna or Pfizer)
- The date the first dose of vaccine was given
- The date the second vaccine dose is due. This date is not an appointment. Patient must schedule a second dose appointment.

### **Additional Resources**

- Stay up-to-date on new vaccine appointment information. Follow the health department via their email newsletter and social media accounts, available at this link: [health.hamiltontn.org/AllServices/Coronavirus\(COVID-19\)/ConnectWithUs.aspx](https://health.hamiltontn.org/AllServices/Coronavirus(COVID-19)/ConnectWithUs.aspx).
- Transportation is available to the vaccination site. Call 423-209-8383 to schedule a ride.
- Visit the Health Department's new vaccine FAQ page, updated regularly: [health.hamiltontn.org/en-us/allservices/coronavirus\(covid-19\)/frequentlyaskedquestions\(faq\).aspx](https://health.hamiltontn.org/en-us/allservices/coronavirus(covid-19)/frequentlyaskedquestions(faq).aspx)

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