

## **COUNTY OF YOLO**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Expanded Eligibility for Vaccines Starts April 1 and 15 but Supply Still Limited**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Following the State of California's <u>recent announcement</u>, Yolo County will open COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to individuals aged 50+ starting April 1 and individuals 16+ starting April 15. However supply of the COVID-19 vaccine is still extremely limited and the newly eligible population is large. As a result, not all eligible residents will be able to immediately schedule an appointment or get vaccinated.

While vaccine eligibility has continued to expand over the last few months, the County's vaccine supply is allocated weekly by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and doses still remain insufficient to vaccinate all eligible residents. Therefore, the County asks for the public's continued patience during this expanded vaccine rollout.

"We expect vaccine supply to increase significantly during April, but for those who become newly eligible on April 1<sup>st</sup>, supply will remain very limited" said Yolo County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson. "Until we see an increase in supply, vaccine appointments will continue to be difficult to come by."

Yolo County is working diligently to ensure that all vaccine doses received from the State of California are administered fairly and efficiently and will continue to host vaccine clinics for those at the highest risk of exposure, serious complications, or death from COVID-19, such as the homeless, seniors 65+, ag workers, and others. Additionally, Yolo County will continue to host public vaccine clinics where currently eligible residents will be able to sign up for a vaccine, though spots may get taken more quickly with the expanded eligibility.

Yolo County is working with local healthcare providers, community clinics, fire departments and others to vaccinate as many eligible residents and workers as possible, including redistributing County doses to these providers.

The vaccine is completely free regardless of having or not having health care insurance and does not require eligibility verification. Yolo County recommends that residents look at multiple options for vaccine appointments, including checking with their healthcare provider, local community clinics, MyTurn, or pharmacies.

"We are happy that people over the age of 50 will be eligible for vaccines on April 1 and that all those over the age of 16 will be eligible on April 15. However because the supply of vaccines is still too low to give shots to all willing Yolo County residents, it is essential that we continue to wear masks, maintain physical distancing, and avoid gatherings with persons not in our households," said Chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Jim Provenza. "Yolo County staff and volunteers are getting shots into arms as fast as the vaccines arrive in our county. I am optimistic that our supply will increase soon so that we will be able to vaccinate all willing Yolo County residents."

Residents should continue to follow public health guidance even after they've been vaccinated, including wearing a face covering in public, practicing physical distancing, and avoiding gatherings when possible to continue to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community and especially when considering those who have not yet been vaccinated.

Yolo County's vaccine clinics are posted weekly at: <a href="www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus/vaccine">www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus/vaccine</a>. If you are 65 or older and need to schedule a vaccine appointment, call the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance at: (530) 757-5583. Care givers (formal or informal) can email First 5 Yolo at: <a href="COVID@first5yolo.org">COVID@first5yolo.org</a>. In addition, homebound residents in need of an in-home vaccine and residents with questions can call 2-1-1 or toll free at (855) 866-1783. For more information on Yolo County's COVID-19 vaccine and distribution process visit <a href="www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-vaccine">www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus-vaccine</a>. For updates, follow Yolo County on Facebook at: <a href="www.facebook.com/YoloCounty">www.facebook.com/YoloCounty</a> or Twitter at: <a href="https://twitter.com/YoloCountyCA">https://twitter.com/YoloCountyCA</a>.

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