

COVID-19 Vaccine Key Points

Current as of Feb. 9, 2021

El Paso County strategy, phases and timeline

- El Paso County is currently focused on providing vaccines to priority populations in Phases 1A and 1B.1 of [Colorado's phased vaccine distribution plan](#). Phase 1A includes high-risk health care workers and individuals. Phase 1B.1 includes everyone age 70 and older and other specific categories.
- Beginning Feb. 8, populations in phase 1B.2—which includes anyone 65-plus, Pre-K-12 educators and child care workers in licensed programs—are eligible as well. However, many providers in the El Paso County Vaccine Consortium continue to focus on offering vaccines to the 70+ group. Of the approximately 65,000 individuals age 70 and older in El Paso County, 25,993 (40.1%) have received at least one dose.
- El Paso County has one of the largest older adult populations in the state with nearly 65,000 people over the age of 70. With the volume of vaccines we currently receive, it is not enough to meet the state's goal to have 70% of those 70 and older vaccinated by the end of February. To expand eligibility to educators and those 65 and older without a significant, sustained increase in our supply is not realistic.
- Pre-K-12 educators and licensed child care providers will be vaccinated through their employers. Providers are working with these employers to quickly vaccinate this group with the limited number of allocated vaccines.
- El Paso County is distributing vaccines as quickly as possible, and each dose is allocated for individuals already on providers' lists; no vaccine is unallocated or going to waste.
- El Paso County is utilizing a multi-pronged approach to COVID-19 vaccination:
 - Leveraging existing health care infrastructure: Working with existing medical providers and health care partners to vaccinate priority groups regionwide as quickly and conveniently as possible.
 - Planning for large-scale clinics (mass vaccinations): Working with the state and partners to plan for upcoming mass vaccination events.

Vaccine stats as of Feb. 8:

- 48,641 people vaccinated
- 19,904 people fully vaccinated
- 2,362 daily seven-day average
- 65,000 seniors 70+ in phase 1B.1
- 25,993 seniors 70+ received at least one dose

Phase 1 vaccine providers:

- UCHealth
- Centura
- Optum and Mountain View Medical Center
- Peak Vista Community Health Centers
- Matthews-Vu Medical Group
- VA Eastern Colorado Health System
- Safeway Pharmacy
- King Soopers

[www.elpasocountyhealth.org/
how-will-i-get-the-vaccine](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/how-will-i-get-the-vaccine)

- o Addressing barriers: Working with partners to increase health equity and remove barriers such as transportation, language and accessibility.

Vaccine availability

- Vaccine supplies remain very limited, with demand exceeding current vaccine allocations. We encourage those who want a vaccine to contact one of the many providers, but please know that it may take a few weeks before a vaccine is available.
- Seniors can receive the vaccine from any of the Phase 1 providers administering the vaccine to eligible individuals in El Paso County.
- Visit www.elpasocountyhealth.org/how-will-i-get-the-vaccine for more information on the vaccine. Residents may also call Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1 for more information and to be connected with a vaccine provider, or text "vaccine" (for English) or "vacuna" (for Spanish) to 667873.
- There is no cost to receive the vaccine. Please beware of any organizations soliciting the COVID-19 vaccine at a cost.
- Until the vaccine is more widely available, it's critical that everyone, including those who have already received the vaccine, continue to follow prevention measures to slow the spread of the virus: wear a mask, practice social distancing, wash hands frequently, and stay home when sick.

How vaccines are allocated

- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has acknowledged that there is a discrepancy in vaccine allocation as compared to the size of El Paso County's population and is working to rectify this by providing increased supply. El Paso County is slated to receive an additional 12,900 vaccines early this week, as well as an additional 7,000 to arrive later in the week.
- These doses will go directly to providers for distribution to seniors 70 and older in El Paso County.
- There is a limited supply of vaccines at the federal level and state and local officials are anticipating an increase in vaccines, but it will take some time for the supply to catch up to the demand.

Next steps:

- The El Paso County Vaccine Consortium is working together to hold more large-scale clinics and mass vaccination events. Centura is hosting a mass vaccine drive-thru clinic this weekend (Feb. 13 & 14). The vaccine clinic will deliver 5,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine to individuals aged 70 and older. Centura is working closely with El Paso County Public Health and other community groups to include underserved communities, in addition to educators, existing patients and those who signed up through the Centura vaccine form. For more details, contact Centura.
- Dr. Johnson (El Paso County Public Health), Dr. Steinbruner (UCHealth), and Cindy Aubrey (Pikes Peak United Way) will be on a KKTV media panel on Tuesday afternoon (Feb. 9) at 4 p.m. to provide information, facts and updates on the COVID-19 vaccine geared toward senior populations.