



Public Health Division

# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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### **Santa Cruz County Announces Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccinations**

**Santa Cruz County, CA** – County officials announced today that the local health jurisdiction will expand access to COVID-19 vaccination to workers in education and childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture industries. Eligibility will be based on [occupation definitions](#) from the California Department of Public Health and proof of occupation will be required for vaccination.

This expanded eligibility comes after Santa Cruz County reached a key milestone – more than half of county residents aged 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine. The County Public Health Division will begin occupational vaccination efforts by working directly with eligible employers to arrange workforce vaccination clinics. Eligible employers can begin the process by filling out the COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Survey at <https://bit.ly/2NnFAUA>. Eligible employees interested in vaccinations should discuss signing up for a vaccine clinic with their employer.

The County is urging older residents who have not yet been vaccinated to schedule an appointment now. As vaccine access expands, efforts will continue to focus on those most impacted, including those with high risk of exposure and older residents at greatest risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19. The County is also working with a network of community partners to ensure that the most impacted communities have equitable access to vaccinations.

“It has taken a truly collaborative effort across the community to reach this point,” said Mimi Hall, the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency Director. “We are steadily increasing our vaccine infrastructure to enable wider access. While we are proud and pleased with efforts so

far, they are limited by both vaccine supply and changing vaccine distribution plans from the State of California. I ask for the public's continued support and understanding."

The County's website at [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine) contains updates and information, including when and how those newly eligible can start to schedule vaccine appointments. While vaccine supply remains limited, vaccines will continue to be offered through a variety of means, including large medical providers, local pharmacies, the OptumServe mass vaccination site, and local public health clinics. The public should be aware that it will take weeks to get through age-based and occupation-based groups in Phase 1B.

The county ranks 7<sup>th</sup> out of 61 California health jurisdictions for per capita vaccinations, including 2<sup>nd</sup> for counties with populations above 250,000.

"Until everyone has access to the vaccine, please continue doing your part to protect the community," Hall said. "This includes staying home as much as possible, wearing a mask in public, maintaining social distancing, and avoiding gatherings with those outside your household."

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