

COUNTY OF COLUSA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Elizabeth Kelly
Director



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NEWS BRIEF: Colusa County Responds to State's Ever-Changing COVID-19 Vaccine Planning.

On Wednesday, Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) abruptly and prematurely announced yet another change to California's COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Vaccine Plan. While this change is an attempt to increase vaccine distribution, it does not address the key components local government needs to support the plan, which include an increased allocation of vaccine, and additional staffing resources.

The change announced this week reprioritizes individuals 65 and older, bumping them up to Phase 1B Tier One of California's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan (<https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>).

Colusa County is currently in Phase 1A of California's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan, and given the current inventory of vaccine, anticipates completing this phase by the end of next week. To date, more than 200 healthcare workers and skilled nursing facility residents have received vaccinations. On January 4th, the Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) submitted its required Vaccine Plan to the State, requesting 15-20 National Guard staff to support local vaccine distribution. The State has not responded.

"Our agency has lost all confidence in the State's ability to effectively manage vaccine planning, and is concerned with the spreading of misinformation" stated DHHS Director Kelly. "In Colusa County, we are committed to proceeding with a plan that is realistic, targeted, equitable, and effective. Human lives are at stake, and we cannot continue to be derailed by unsubstantiated changes that continue to lack the necessary tools and resources needed to execute, including actual vaccine here in the county, and the staffing to actually administer vaccine accordingly."

Colusa County will continue to follow California's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan in a transparent manner, with a realistic timeline given local conditions and circumstances. Colusa County

has developed a webpage devoted to information and updates regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as a schedule outlining local distribution (updated weekly assuming the availability of vaccine). Residents are encouraged to refer to this webpage as the official vaccine distribution resource in Colusa County.

Colusa County would again ask that we remain diligent in ensuring compliance to the face covering Order, continue maintaining 6-ft physical distancing, continue hand washing and proper hygiene, and remain home if sick, or exposed to COVID-19.

Colusa County's COVID-19 vaccine webpage can be accessed here:
<https://www.countyofcolusa.org/949/Vaccine>.