



DEEPER DIVE

Group 3 – Frontline Essential Workers

COVID-19 Vaccinations: Your best shot at stopping COVID-19

A tested, safe and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. To save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19, independent state and federal public health advisory committees recommend first protecting health care workers caring for patients with COVID-19, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19. Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as possible given the limited supply of vaccines.

Keep practicing the 3 Ws – wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands – until everyone has a chance to get vaccinated.

3 Frontline Essential Workers

Group 3: The goal is to protect those at high risk of exposure.

Frontline essential workers are people who:

- Must be in-person at their place of work
- Work in one of the eight essential sectors listed below*

Critical Manufacturing	Education	Essential Goods	Food and Agriculture
Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workers manufacturing medical supplies, medical equipment or PPE• Workers manufacturing products needed for food and agricultural supply chains	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child care staff**• K-12 teachers and support staff**• College and university instructors and support staff	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workers in stores that sell groceries and medicine	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meat packing workers• Food processing workers• Farm workers• Migrant farm/fishery workers• Food distribution and supply chain workers• Restaurant workers

Government and Community Services	Health Care and Public Health	Public Safety	Transportation
Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Postal Service and other shipping workers • Court workers • Elected officials • Clergy • Homeless shelter staff • Veterinarians, veterinarian staff and veterinarian students 	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health workers • Social workers 	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firefighters and EMS • Law enforcement • Corrections workers • Security officers • Public agency workers responding to abuse and neglect 	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transit workers • Division of Motor Vehicles workers • Transportation maintenance and repair technicians • Workers supporting highway infrastructure

On February 10, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced plans for how the state will move to Group 3 for COVID-19 vaccines. Because supply is still very limited and the population of frontline essential workers is so large, we will begin with anyone working in child care or in PreK – 12 schools starting on February 24. NC will move to additional frontline essential workers in Group 3 on March 10.

*The [frontline essential sectors and workers, as categorized by Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) align with federal prioritization [guidance](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

** May begin receiving vaccinations on February 24.