



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

January 19, 2021

Heather Burkhardt
Executive Director
NC Coalition on Aging
PO Box 12762
Raleigh, NC 27605

Dear Mrs. Burkhardt:

Thank you for your letter regarding North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccine planning.

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.

Because vaccine supplies are currently limited, states must make vaccine available in groups. North Carolina moves through vaccination groups by aligning to federal priorities while empowering local health departments and hospitals with flexibility to move to the next priority group as they complete phases and have vaccines available. On January 14th, we shared that vaccine providers may start vaccinating individuals in Groups 1 and 2, including all health care workers and anyone 65 years and older.

All vaccine providers are expected to ensure that vaccine is equitably administered within each group. Communities who have faced longstanding and continuing racial and ethnic injustices in our health care system may feel greater distrust towards vaccines. We are partnering with trusted community leaders and organizations to provide accurate information to all North Carolinians and also with our vaccine providers to ensure equitable access to vaccines.

More information about the NC COVID-19 Vaccine Plan, current prioritizations plan based on risk and other resources, please visit our [website](#). Please note this website is updated frequently with the most recent information available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mandy K. Cohen".

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH
Secretary