



Gov. Ned Lamont has set a goal to vaccinate all Connecticut residents who want the coronavirus vaccine by late summer 2021. Connecticut’s grocer community and their essential workers could be eligible by mid-January.

The first phase of vaccine distribution in Connecticut will involve inoculating over 200,000 healthcare workers, about 22,000 residents of nursing and long-term care homes, and about 6,000 medical first responders, Lamont said.

“Number one, these are the folks most likely to suffer complications,” [Lamont told reporters Dec. 3](#). “These are the older folks who most likely suffer fatalities, and these are the folks most likely to go into the hospital. “So not only will we hopefully be saving lives, we’re hopefully keeping these folks out of the hospital, which, again, adds to our capacity in the hospitals.”

Executive Order

[An executive order Lamont signed](#) Dec. 7 calls for:

- Authorizing licensed pharmacists to administer any coronavirus vaccine that has been approved by the FDA under certain conditions, as well as administer influenza vaccines to children aged 10-17
- Requiring any pharmacist who administers an influenza vaccine to any patient under the age of 18 and obtains the vaccine through the Connecticut Vaccine Program to electronically report the information about the administration of the vaccine to the Department of Public Health’s immunization registry
- Caps the amount that providers may charge to administer COVID-19 vaccines, to ensure that no one is required to pay out-of-pocket costs for the vaccine

Vaccine Shipments

Lamont said Connecticut expects to receive around 90,000 vaccine doses by the third week of December—about 60,000 from Moderna and 30,000 from Pfizer. By the end of January, the state could receive up to 380,000 doses of the two vaccines.

The second phase will run from the middle of January into May and will provide vaccines to critical workers, state prison inmates, group home residents, adults 65 and older, and people under 65 who are considered high risk.

Under the final phase, which was projected to begin in early June, vaccines will be given to residents 18 and under, as well as those over 18 who remain unvaccinated.

As of Dec. 8, Connecticut had confirmed over 135,000 confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus and a daily test positivity of around 8.6%—the highest rate in months.

A total of 5,224 state residents had died as a result of COVID through Dec. 7.

Filed Under: [Coronavirus](#), [Health & Wellness](#)



December, 8 2020

The Honorable Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

On behalf of Connecticut's grocery community and supplier network, thank you for your leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We greatly appreciate the steps your administration has taken to keep citizens safe as well as your tireless efforts to plan for the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines, as laid out in Connecticut's COVID-19 Interim Draft Vaccination Plan. We also support a prioritization of food and agriculture essential workers after the Phase 1 initial allocations targeting healthcare workers, first responders and our states senior citizens.

As you know, in order to keep the food supply chain running and Americans nourished during the ongoing health crisis, the federal government designated the food and agriculture sector as part of the nation's critical infrastructure via the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce. As a result, the food industry has continued, bolstered, and at times shifted operations to ensure American families across the country have access to our products. However, prioritizing COVID-19 vaccinations for food and agriculture essential workers would allow a key intervention to keep supply chains operating while those designated to receive the vaccine later continue to observe safety and distancing measures in their communities.

Therefore, we strongly support the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook and the National Academies of Sciences' final framework for COVID-19 vaccines allocation, both of which recommend prioritizing food industry essential workers for COVID-19 vaccinations after health care workers and certain high-risk populations. To continue to protect the food supply, we respectfully ask that you follow these examples.

Again, thank you for your leadership, and we appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at (860) 216-4055.

Sincerely,

Wayne Pesce
Connecticut Food Association