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## Contra Costa Extends COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility to Essential Workers

Teachers, grocery workers and other frontline essential workers who live in Contra Costa County can now sign up to receive safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to them.

Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) today updated its eligibility policy for COVID-19 vaccine to extend vaccination eligibility to residents who work in the education and childcare sector, food and agriculture workers, and emergency services workers as defined by Phase 1B of California's vaccination plan.

"We are committed to protecting all of our educators by ensuring they can access the COVID-19 vaccine," said Diane Burgis, chair of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. "It is critical that we prioritize the health and well being of all the essential workers who have cared for us and our families throughout the pandemic."

Residents in these groups, as well as county residents who are 65 years and older who have not yet been vaccinated, can sign up to access state and federal sites through <a href="MyTurn">MyTurn</a> (myturn.ca.gov) or by calling 1-833-422-4255.

Essential workers and residents 65 years and older can also <u>request immunization appointments through CCHS</u> and join the county waiting list for COVID-19 vaccine. However, due to a temporary reduction in vaccine supply from the state, all appointments at county sites are filled through the next two weeks at least.

People who need to cancel an existing appointment or who received a first dose of vaccine through CCHS and need to make a second-dose appointment should call 1-833-829-2626.

When more appointments do become available, CCHS will continue to prioritize county residents who are 65 or older as well as eligible essential workers, particularly those who live or work in the local communities most heavily affected by the pandemic.

CCHS continues to move forward with a workplace-based outreach effort to immunize essential workers in high-risk jobs in the county's hardest-hit communities, including food and agriculture workers. Workers at sites selected for the program will be contacted by their employers.

For more information about Contra Costa's response to the COVID-19 pandemic including information about COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and appointments, visit <a href="mailto:cchealth.org/coronavirus">cchealth.org/coronavirus</a>.