

### PRESS RELEASE

**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER January 15, 2021**

(805) 896-1057

eocpiostaff@countyofsb.org

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TO BEGIN VACCINATIONS FOR PEOPLE AGES 75+**

*Awaiting Vaccine Supply to Serve 65+ and Others Included in the Next Vaccination Tier*

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – In light of the State’s direction for California counties to prioritize vaccination for people 65 years of age and older, Santa Barbara County is beginning vaccination efforts for people 75 years of age and older. As soon as more vaccines become available from the State, vaccination will then begin for people ages 65 and older.

Van Do-Reynoso, Director of the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department states, “We fully support the prioritization of those over the age of 65 and look forward to the receipt of additional vaccines to meet the current demand. With adequate supply and through community partnerships, we can continue to move through the vaccination tiers and continue to offer vaccinations for our priority populations,” says Do-Reynoso.

Medical providers who are approved to administer the vaccination will be contacting eligible patients to schedule vaccination appointments. While the county is increasing efforts to get vaccines administered, there continues to be a limited supply of the vaccine and people may not receive an immediate appointment.  Medical providers will have the flexibility to begin vaccinations for people ages 80 and older based on their staffing and vaccine resources.

Vaccinations will also be made available at each of the public health community vaccination points of distribution (PODs) which are located throughout the county. For reference, there are over 32,000 county residents 75 years of age and older. The Public Health Department vaccine distribution sites will have approximately 1,200 total vaccines available during their first 4 days of vaccination. This does not include vaccine available at healthcare clinics. More appointments will become available as more vaccine arrive. Vaccine appointment registration for those community members 75 years of age or older can be accessed by visiting [https://publichealthsbc.org/covid-19-vaccine-appointment-registration/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__publichealthsbc.org_covid-2D19-2Dvaccine-2Dappointment-2Dregistration_&d=DwMFAg&c=1wUSNqovzTuGtEyxwNcqMAkpWHAqSzvPhp9OaWkFGCw&r=_QQ_fripyZ7z54F6Yf7YKTvnpq0Oww32FovUhJ4whSs&m=_2oLtr7r355jvkgaFkO1AvZj2G4K9CfJu2D15n5baCw&s=L0hWKSBOEu1KPdYHghOtfg57xCrrqrqJCmkzxg90LLE&e=).

Santa Barbara County will continue to vaccinate its frontline healthcare workers in Phase 1A, tiers 1, 2 and 3. “The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as sufficient quantities become available” states Do-Reynoso. Until that time, Santa Barbara County Public Health and health care providers are vaccinating in [order of priority](https://publichealthsbc.org/vaccine/) based on supply.

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If you are 65 to 74 years of age, the County Public Health Department and local healthcare providers looks forward to inviting you to be vaccinated. You can expect to receive communication from your local health care provider when they have vaccine available and your group is eligible to receive it. Additionally, the County Public Health Department will send information via press release, vaccine newsletter, website update, social media, etc. when further groups, including yours, are eligible to be vaccinated. If you have questions, please call 2-1-1 or visit [www.publichealthsbc.org/vaccine](http://www.publichealthsbc.org/vaccine).

 Everyone is encouraged to sign up to receive up-to-date, local vaccination information for Santa Barbara County via email by registering [here](https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1937902/1753150/). For up to date information about vaccine distribution, be sure to visit [www.publichealthsbc.org/vaccine](http://www.publichealthsbc.org/vaccine%20) or call 2-1-1.

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County Public Health: [www.PublicHealthSBC.org](http://www.PublicHealthSBC.org), [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/SBCPUBLICHEALTH)and [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/SBCountyPublicHealth)
County of Santa Barbara: [www.CountyofSB.org](http://www.CountyofSB.org), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/countyofsb), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/countyofsb)
2-1-1 Call Center: Dial 211 or outside the area, call (800) 400-1572

Community Wellness Team Information and Referral Line: (805) 364-2750

Behavioral Wellness Crisis Line: (888) 868-1649