

PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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COVID-19 Vaccine Update: Vaccine Available for Residents 65 and Older

San Luis Obispo County residents age 65 and older are now eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine. The County Public Health Department is providing the vaccine **by appointment only** to eligible residents and health care workers. To make an appointment:

- Visit <u>RecoverSLO.org/VaccineAppointments</u>
- Call the County's Phone Assistance Center at (805) 543-2444, 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eligible residents can also book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at select pharmacies and <u>French</u> <u>Hospital</u> as their own independent supply allows. See <u>RecoverSLO.org/Vaccines</u> for details and links to check availability at these locations.

Vaccine supply remains very limited and not everyone who is eligible will be able to make an appointment right away. We continue to request and receive vaccine weekly. As supply allows, more appointments will be added on weekday mornings around 9 a.m. We ask those who are able to safely wait a little longer to please do so, to allow those most at risk to go first.

Residents age 65 and older will be asked to provide proof of age (drivers' license, passport, birth certificate, etc.) and that they currently live in SLO County (drivers' license, lease, official mail received at a SLO County address, etc.) Immigration status is not checked at any time during the registration, vaccination, or follow-up process.

While we recognize that many patients under age 65 also need vaccine, we are not currently able to provide exceptions based on medical conditions, pending surgeries or other risks. Please remind patients not to sign up for an appointment until they are eligible to do so, as they will be turned away if they are not eligible and this slows down the process for everyone.

Answers to FAQs about COVID-19 vaccine in SLO County

Please encourage your staff and patients to review frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine in SLO County. These FAQs are updated daily and include specific local information: www.Recoverslo.org/VaccineFAQs

Talking with patients about the vaccine

CDC provides guidance for health care providers on talking with patients about the vaccine, answering their questions, and addressing specific concerns. You can find this information at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp.

How to become a provider of the COVID-19 vaccine

Health care providers in SLO County are encouraged to enroll to receive doses of COVID-19 vaccine to administer to eligible patients. We recommend beginning the process now, as it involves multiple steps and levels of review. For an overview of the process and to get started, visit the Calvax enrollment portal at <u>https://calvax.cdph.ca.gov</u>. Questions? Email <u>covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov</u> or call (833) 502-1245.

For vaccine updates

For local updates on COVID-19 vaccine, we encourage patients and health care providers to:

- Regularly check <u>www.RecoverSLO.org/Vaccines</u>.
- <u>Sign up for email updates</u> at ReadySLO.org
- Follow the Public Health Department on social media: <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Facebook</u>
- Watch the Public Health Department's weekly news briefing at: <u>https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/daily-press-briefing.aspx</u>
- Call the recorded Public Health Information Line at (805) 788-2903.