



Town of New Castle, NH  
Settled 1623  
Incorporated 1693

## COVID19 Update December 15, 2020

### **A little more information on the vaccines.**

On last Friday night the FDA approved Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. Sunday December 13 the CDC Committee also recommended the vaccine for people 16 years old and older. Monday Pfizer started shipment of the vaccine and today (Tuesday), Phase 1a immunization will begin.

This week, the Moderna vaccine will undergo the same steps as the Pfizer vaccine from last week. Today, Tuesday Dec 15, the FDA is expected to release additional data on the Moderna vaccine. Thursday the FDA Advisory Committee will meet to review the Moderna data. A recommendation for approval is expected but will probably have the age range start at 18. Friday, at the earliest, FDA will approve the EUA

### **Who will be receiving the vaccine first?**

Though the CDC gave out recommended guidelines for vaccine administration phases, final decisions were left up to individual states. New Hampshire has deviated mildly from the CDC guideline for phase 1a, but it is similar.

These first shipments will go to Phase 1a which in New Hampshire includes 1) at-risk health workers in the most and moderate risk groups; 2) older adults in residential care settings; and, 3) first responders.

Phase 1b: Likely Essential Workers

Phase 1c: Likely Adults with high risk medical conditions and/or adults 65+ years old

Although it is hard to know the precise timing, it is estimated that Phase 1a will be in December-January, Phase 1b starting in February, and Phase 1c starting in March.

### **Is there a way to know where you are in the queue?**

If you do not fall into one of the Phase 1 categories above, you can use the NY Times tool in this link for an estimate.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/03/opinion/covid-19-vaccine-timeline.html>

### **What do we know about the 2 people with allergic reactions in the UK?**

On the first day of dosing, thousands of people in the UK received the Pfizer vaccine. Two people in their 40's had a severe allergic reaction requiring epinephrine and other supportive measures. Both people recovered. One person had a history to foods, in particular cheesecake.



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One person had a history of allergy to drugs (not identified). Pfizer indicated that they did not see these type of reactions in their clinical trials.

**What is the FDA recommendation regarding allergies?**

The FDA has indicated that anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction to the first dose shouldn't receive the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Also if you have an allergy to any ingredient in the vaccine, you shouldn't receive it. FDA has also indicated that sites giving the vaccine should have epinephrine and other supportive measures for treating any potential allergic reactions. Therefore people who have more common allergies, eg. nuts, shellfish, cats/dogs, can receive the vaccine.

**Can immunocompromised people (immunodeficiency, malignancy, on immunosuppressant medication, organ transplant recipients) receive the Pfizer vaccine?**

Yes, there are no enhanced concerns over the safety of the vaccine. This is NOT a live vaccine. However there is a chance that their immune response to the vaccine may be dampened or diminished.

**Does it prevent asymptomatic infection, or ability to transmit?**

Pfizer does not have data from the clinical trials. Moderna has not collected this information.

Once again, many thanks to Anthony and Diane Coniglio for their assistance.

Link for Vaccine Group 1A

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/phase-1a-technical-assistance.pdf>

If you wish to volunteer for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine trial, you may phone 603-319-8863, or go to <https://activmedresearch.com/>

Updated FAQ from the State of New Hampshire regarding COVID:

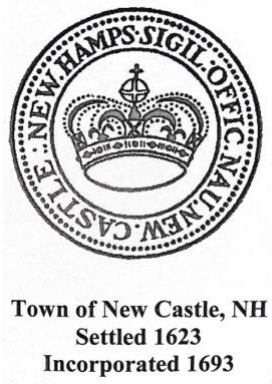
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-19-faq.pdf>

COVID dashboard website- for daily positivity rate, school infections, graphics, etc.

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/overview.htm>

COVID numbers update by town:

[https://www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-town-by-town-covid-cases/34879297?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Coronavirus%20Newsletters%202020-12-10&utm\\_term=wmur-coronavirus\\_COMBINED](https://www.wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-town-by-town-covid-cases/34879297?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Coronavirus%20Newsletters%202020-12-10&utm_term=wmur-coronavirus_COMBINED)



CDC guidance for holiday celebrations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Yours in Health,

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