

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNOR



STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
ACTING CABINET SECRETARY

March 8, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Higher Education Presidents, Chancellors, and Administrators
FROM: Stephanie Rodriguez, Acting Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department
CC: Dr. Patricia Trujillo, Deputy Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department
RE: Guidance Regarding Vaccines for Educators

As the State of New Mexico and the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) begin to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine to educators, the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) is providing ongoing guidance and support surrounding COVID-19 vaccine distribution within higher education. Per the direction of the Biden Administration, the NMDOH has announced that the vaccine is available to K-12 educators and early childhood professionals at this time. Please note that if employees within higher education registered for a COVID-19 vaccine prior to March 4, 2021, they will be included in the rollout of vaccines to educators as noted below.

- **Beginning March 8, 2021:** Educators and early childhood professionals outside of the Albuquerque Metro area.
- **Beginning March 15, 2021:** Educators and early childhood professionals within the Albuquerque Metro area, likely at a vaccination site.
- **Beginning March 22, 2021:** Educators and early childhood professionals who register for the vaccine in the interim, on or after March 4, 2021, who have not been vaccinated (K-12 and early education only).

Higher Education employees registering after March 4, 2021 will receive vaccines at a later date per Phase 1B guidance, or as determined by individual eligibility factors. As noted in previous memos, Phase 1B encompasses a variety of citizens as persons 75 or older, 16 years or older with at least one chronic condition, frontline essential workers, and other vulnerable populations.

Individuals within Phase 1B will continue to be prioritized once the State of New Mexico abides and administers vaccines per the guidance of the Biden Administration. Please continue to encourage faculty and staff members to register for a vaccine if they have not done so already.

I want to acknowledge your significant efforts to mitigate COVID-19 spread within your respective higher education institutions and communities. It has been a heavy lift and although our work is not done, the distribution of vaccines across New Mexico brings hope and relief to our communities.

Questions

The NMHED appreciates your ongoing support of the agency, public health orders, and executive orders. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the agency via email at NMHED.COVID@state.nm.us.