



## DEEPER DIVE

### Group 3 – Frontline Essential Workers

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations: Your best shot at stopping COVID-19

A tested, safe and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first. To save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19, independent state and federal public health advisory committees recommend first protecting health care workers caring for patients with COVID-19, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19. Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as possible given the limited supply of vaccines.

Keep practicing the 3 Ws – wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands – until everyone has a chance to get vaccinated.

#### 3 Frontline Essential Workers

#### Group 3: The goal is to protect those at high risk of exposure.

Frontline essential workers are people who:

- Must be in-person at their place of work
- Work in one of the eight essential sectors listed below\*

Critical Manufacturing	Education	Essential Goods	Food and Agriculture
Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workers manufacturing medical supplies, medical equipment or PPE</li><li>• Workers manufacturing products needed for food and agricultural supply chains</li></ul>	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child care staff**</li><li>• K-12 teachers and support staff**</li><li>• College and university instructors and support staff</li></ul>	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workers in stores that sell groceries and medicine</li></ul>	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meat packing workers</li><li>• Food processing workers</li><li>• Farm workers</li><li>• Migrant farm/fishery workers</li><li>• Food distribution and supply chain workers</li><li>• Restaurant workers</li></ul>

<b>Government and Community Services</b>	<b>Health Care and Public Health</b>	<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Postal Service and other shipping workers</li> <li>• Court workers</li> <li>• Elected officials</li> <li>• Clergy</li> <li>• Homeless shelter staff</li> <li>• News media services</li> <li>• Veterinarians, veterinarian staff and veterinarian students</li> </ul>	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public health workers</li> <li>• Social workers</li> </ul>	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firefighters and EMS</li> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Corrections workers</li> <li>• Security officers</li> <li>• Public agency workers responding to abuse and neglect</li> </ul>	Including for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transit workers</li> <li>• Division of Motor Vehicles workers</li> <li>• Transportation maintenance and repair technicians</li> <li>• Workers supporting highway infrastructure</li> </ul>

On February 10, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced plans for how the state will move to Group 3 for COVID-19 vaccines. Because supply is still very limited and the population of frontline essential workers is so large, we will begin with anyone working in child care or in PreK – 12 schools starting on February 24. NC will move to additional frontline essential workers in Group 3 on March 10.

\*The [frontline essential sectors and workers, as categorized by Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) align with federal prioritization [guidance](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

\*\* May begin receiving vaccinations on February 24.