

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



For Immediate Press Release: 02/18/2021

Contact Person: Radka Barter
508-821-1000

Mayor O’Connell Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Taunton, MA . . . Today Mayor Shaunna O’Connell announces recent vaccine updates following new information provided by the Governor’s Office.

People in group 2 of Phase 2 of the state vaccination plan are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This group includes people 65 years and older, people with 2 or more qualifying medical conditions and residents and staff of low income and affordable senior housing. Vaccine supply is extremely limited, and the Governor has explained that it may take a month or more to vaccinate all the people who are currently eligible for the vaccine.

“Our priority is to keep our residents informed. We have been committed to providing information through citywide calls, mailings, our website, local media, and social media,” said O’Connell.

Over a million people in Massachusetts are now eligible for the vaccine. Demand far surpasses the availability of the vaccine and it may be challenging to book an appointment. In addition, the Governor has determined that residents of the Commonwealth should be vaccinated at state mass sites, regional sites, pharmacies, and by primary care providers. With the exception of twenty communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 in Massachusetts, vaccines will no longer be provided to city governments for local clinics. Local vaccination efforts must now be directed strictly to homebound individuals or others who cannot travel to a vaccine site.

O’Connell expressed frustration over the state’s decision to limit local clinics. “I am disappointed that the City of Taunton won’t be receiving additional vaccines. Our clinics were well run and organized. We vaccinated over 900 seniors in four days in safe, convenient, local clinics. We can vaccinate our residents quickly and efficiently. We are asking the state to reconsider their decision.”

Seniors who received their first dose locally will still receive their second dose at a local clinic. This applies to Taunton residents who received their first dose at Taunton High School, Council on Aging Senior Center, and Bristol-Plymouth Technical School. The Mayor’s Office will contact these seniors in a couple of weeks to schedule the specific day and time of the second dose of the vaccine.

Mayor O’Connell is pursuing additional avenues to increase the number of local options for vaccination including the possibility of hosting a state-sponsored vaccination site in Taunton, increasing the number of Taunton pharmacies that distribute the vaccine, and exploring collaborative efforts with neighboring towns to host a regional vaccination site. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

For more information, please refer to <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>, taunton-ma.gov and the City of Taunton Facebook page. ###