

**From:** Maurice Jones  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2021 4:51 PM  
**To:** Town Email Users  
**Subject:** Manager's Weekly Message 1-08-20

Hello Everyone,

Our first minor chance for winter weather may present itself tonight with upwards of an inch of snow possible. While we don't expect major issues, there are some important safety concerns the National Weather Service has outlined—specifically hazardous travel conditions if snow falls at a high rate in areas as well as black ice from low overnight temperatures.

As the text message, phone call, and/or email you received from OC Alerts through our Emergency Management Division stated, please check the latest forecast before traveling if you must go out. What's better is if you can remain off the road until conditions improve and temperatures rise, we hope you'll strongly consider doing so.

## Vaccinations

I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with an update with the latest information we have about vaccinations. Please note that details about the vaccination process are changing regularly as the plan is being developed as time goes on.

### *Prioritization Changed*

The prioritization schedule (Phase 1a, Phase 1b-Groups 1, 2, & 3, Phase 2, & Phase 3) has changed again. This may happen multiple times as we navigate through the dispersal of vaccines. What you need to know is that our Orange County Health Department—and hopefully the health department in the county where you live—is receiving the vaccine from the state and overseeing how and when local residents should be prioritized.

Here is the current prioritization schedule:  
<https://files.nc.gov/covid-19/documents/vaccines/NCDHHS-Vaccine-Infographic.pdf>

We will continue to provide you updates as we receive them. A couple helpful links are:

Orange County Health Department: [orangecountync.gov/getyourshot](https://orangecountync.gov/getyourshot)  
NC Department of Health and Human Services: [yourspotyourshot.nc.gov](https://yourspotyourshot.nc.gov)

### *What About Me?*

When you're selected to get your vaccination, we hope that you won't "throw away your shot" (any Hamilton fans?). However, we understand and respect your choice to make your own medical decisions. We have heard from many medical professionals that believe what the science shows that the vaccine is safe and effective in fighting COVID-19.

Getting your vaccine supports our efforts to maintain core Town services, and knowledge is power. We ask that when you get your vaccine you share that information with the ERT (Exposure Response Team). Just like other medical information the ERT has been tracking during the pandemic response, the ERT will keep this information confidential. This information is helpful for future planning purpose.

**Covid-19 Vaccinations:**  
Your best shot at stopping COVID-19.

YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.

You have a spot, take your shot. 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. Keep practicing the 3 W's—wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands—until everyone has a chance to get vaccinated.

- 1a** Health care workers fighting COVID-19 & Long-Term Care staff and residents.
  - Health care workers caring for and working directly with patients with COVID-19, including staff responsible for cleaning and maintenance in these areas
  - Health care workers administering vaccine
  - Long-term care staff and residents/people in skilled nursing facilities and in adult, family and group homes
- 1b** Adults 75 years or older and frontline essential workers.
  - There is not enough vaccine for everyone in this phase to be vaccinated at the same time. Vaccinations will be available to groups in the following order:
    - Group 1:** Anyone 75 years or older regardless of health status or living situation
    - Group 2:** Health care workers and frontline essential workers 50 years or older
    - Group 3:** Health care workers and frontline essential workers of any age
  - The CDC defines frontline essential workers as their respective mail, firefighters and police officers, corrections officers, food and agriculture workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff) essential to work in childcare workers
- 2** Adults at high risk for influenza and at increased risk of severe illness.
  - Vaccinations will happen by group in the following order:
    - Group 1:** Anyone 65-74 years old, regardless of health status or living situation
    - Group 2:** Anyone 18-64 years old with high-risk medical conditions that increase risk of severe disease from COVID-19 such as cancer, COPD, serious heart conditions, sickle cell disease, Type 2 diabetes, among others, regardless of living situation
    - Group 3:** Anyone who is incarcerated or living in other close group living settings who is not already vaccinated due to age, medical condition or job function
    - Group 4:** Essential workers not yet vaccinated
  - The CDC defines these as workers in transportation and logistics, water and wastewater, food services, shelter and housing (i.e., construction), finance (i.e., bank services), information technology and telecommunications, energy, mail, media, and public safety (i.e., emergency and public health workers)
- 3** Students.
  - College and university students
  - K-12 students age 18 and over (younger children will only be vaccinated when the vaccine is approved for them)
- 4** Everyone who wants to work and receive COVID-19 vaccination.

For more information: [YourShot.nc.gov](https://yourshot.nc.gov)

NC Department of Health and Human Services • [YourShot.nc.gov](https://yourshot.nc.gov)  
NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider • 12/2020

And, I want to repeat what I've said before: As it stands now, the Town does not intend to make getting a vaccine mandatory. We know it will be a while before all our employees have an opportunity to be vaccinated and it's critical for all of us to remain patient as we work our way through the procedures.

### Happy New Year

With a new year comes new challenges and new adventures. I hope you had a nice holiday season, and I look forward to working with you in 2021.

### Resources

- Submit employee questions and concerns to the Office of Risk Management at 919-969-5035, [rallen@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:rallen@townofchapelhill.org)
- Contact the Town's Wellness Clinic: 919-968-2796, <https://chapelhillwellnessatwork.org/>
  - Please call first
  - Please note: the Town's Wellness Clinic does not have the capability to test for coronavirus; the staff can recommend whether you should seek additional medical guidance
- Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plan provides video diagnosis options. Visit <https://member.carefirst.com/members/health-wellness/video-visit.page>.
- Contact the Ombuds at [ombuds@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:ombuds@townofchapelhill.org) or 919-265-0806
- If you need to talk with someone about personal problems and/or work-related problems that may impact your job performance, health, mental and emotional well-being, call 1-800-326-3864 or visit [bhsonline.com](http://bhsonline.com).



Please take care of yourself and your loved ones. Thank you for all you do for our community.

All the Best,  
Maurice

Maurice Jones  
Town Manager  
Town of Chapel Hill, NC  
(919) 968-2743  
[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)