



City of Virginia Beach

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
PHONE: (757) 385-4242
FAX: (757) 427-5626

MUNICIPAL CENTER
BUILDING 1, STE 234
2401 COURTHOUSE DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9001

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Robert M. Dyer, Mayor
and Members of City Council

Subject: COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Brief

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

The City of Virginia Beach is working closely with Virginia Beach Department of Public Health to assist with the rollout and implementation of the COVID-19 mass vaccination program. Understanding the magnitude and urgency of such an initiative, the City has committed significant staffing and resources to assist with operating the COVID-19 Vaccination Point of Dispensing (POD) site located at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The Convention Center POD held two additional closed events this week for individuals in Phase 1a – Healthcare Personnel. In addition, the City has assessed plans to administer additional doses in the weeks to come, dependent upon vaccine availability from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

The attached *COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Brief* details current mass vaccination operations in Virginia Beach, the status of doses administered, future planning efforts, and information on how to stay informed on ongoing vaccination efforts. For reference, I have highlighted a few notable points below:

- A total of 13,271 vaccine doses have been administered in the City, and 738 people are fully vaccinated. Of the 13,271 vaccine doses administered in the City, 5,279 doses were administered through the City PODs.
- The City is moving into Phase 1B on Monday, January 25th. The City has built a pre-registration portal that will also launch on January 25th that individuals in Phase 1B must pre-register through in order to get vaccinated.
- Staff stands ready to implement a major vaccination operation; however, current vaccine availability projections look bleak and indicate even less supply may be available in the coming weeks.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Duhaney
City Manager

Attachment (1)

OPERATIONS SUMMARY

Mass vaccination efforts are ongoing at the Convention Center; operations are ramping up as additional vaccine doses become available

- 13,271 vaccine doses have been provided in the City of Virginia Beach; 5,279 administered through City-partnered Points of Distribution (POD) sites
- 738 people are fully vaccinated
- We are moving into Phase 1B on Monday, January 25 (total of 127,000 residents in Phase 1B, per Virginia Beach Health District).
- The Vaccinate VB pre-registration portal, developed by the City's IT department, will go live on Monday, January 25. Individuals in Phase 1A and 1B who live and work in the City of Virginia Beach will be able to pre-register through this portal
- Residents who qualify for Phase 1A who have not yet received the vaccine may still come in
- The City's 311 Citizen Services Center is fielding calls regarding mass vaccination and will assist with the pre-registration portal
- **Vaccine availability and vaccinators continue to be the limiting factors to ramp up operations**
- Per VDH, vaccine availability isn't expected to increase until late February or early March

WEEK OF 1/25

- 3 CLOSED (invite-only) PODs for 1B on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday 8AM – 6PM
- 9,000 doses available
- Vaccine availability after next week does not appear promising and may even be less than what we've received previously

FUTURE PLANNING

- City staff have developed a planning tool to determine the maximum throughput at the VBCC with corresponding staffing needs and expenditures to provide vaccine administration projections
- Planning assumptions:
 - Continuous access to VBCC Hall D or equivalent capacity elsewhere with adequate vaccine availability and staffing/resource support
 - Mass vaccinate 297,500 people = 595,000 doses
 - Vaccinate 300 people/hour or 2400 doses/8 hr shift
 - Plan is scalable to provide 2 shifts/day (16 hrs/day), 7 days/w

VBCC Potential

- Current projected vaccine supply (5800/week):
 $595,000 \text{ doses} \div 5800 \text{ doses/week} = 103 \text{ weeks}$
- Unlimited vaccine supply: $595,000 \text{ doses} \div 2400 \text{ doses/8 hr POD} = 248 \text{ PODs}$.
- $248 \text{ PODs} \div 2 \text{ PODS/day} \div 7 \text{ days/week} = 18 \text{ weeks}$

CITY WORKFORCE

- Messaging and communications continue to be disseminated to City workforce to address questions regarding the mass vaccination process
- Continuity of government individuals have been identified as Phase 1B
- Continue to emphasize need to follow safety protocols to reduce the spread

FEDERAL AND STATE UPDATES

- The Biden administration has released its [National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness](#), providing overarching strategies for preparing and implementing mass vaccination efforts
- Governor Northam will be using Virginia National Guard as logistical and administrative support for mass vaccination POD activations to lead or supplement State and local efforts
- Governor Northam will be instituting a new policy regarding mass vaccinations: “If you don’t use it, you will lose it” to ensure the vaccine is being distributed to providers who can administer them as quickly as they receive them

COMMUNICATION SUMMARY

- The Communications Office has shifted its workload and is establishing a joint information center with the Virginia Beach Department of Public Health to provide more direct support to for vaccine communications. One staff member is being temporarily assigned to work almost exclusively on this project for the next 30-60 days
- Developed and introduced new “Vaccinate Virginia Beach” brand to help create a recognizable identity for the vaccination program
- Phase 1B Announcement:
 - Developed and distributed media release
 - Facilitated media interviews
 - Social media posts – as of 9 a.m. on 1/22:
 - Facebook 64,253 impressions
 - Twitter 3,847 impressions
 - Nextdoor 130 impressions
 - Instagram 5,953 impressions
- Headline on VBgov.com
- City Page e-newsletter
- City Manager’s Update
- Developed fact sheet to assist 3-1-1 and others in responding to citizen inquiries about vaccine
- Continuing to update <http://www.Emergency.VBGov.com/coronavirus>

