



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

LISA J. PINO, M.A., J.D.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 18, 2020

Dear Healthcare Provider:

On December 16, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo updated New Yorkers on the establishment of Regional Vaccination Networks to support New York State's COVID-19 Vaccination Program and ensure the equitable distribution and administration of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to all residents of the Empire State who wish to receive it. This letter provides additional detail and clarifies the role of health care providers in this effort and emphasizes the expectation that health care providers fully participate in their local Regional Vaccination Network.

Regional Vaccination Networks are based on the 10 New York State Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) regions. Each of the 10 regional networks is led by an anchoring organization, called a Hub, that must convene lead health care providers and stakeholders across their respective regions and coordinate the necessary planning activities and convene planning to ensure widespread vaccination coverage. More specifically, Hubs are responsible for:

- Supporting the formation and activities of Regional Vaccination Networks in their respective regions;
- Leading the formation of and convening a Regional Advisory Task Force that includes, but is not limited to, representatives from local government, healthcare, faith-based organizations, and other community stakeholders to assist in the development of the Regional Implementation Plan;
- Working with members of the Regional Advisory Task Force and other stakeholders on the development of Regional Implementation Plans;
- Coordinating operations and logistics stakeholders and supporting local emergency management activities; and
- Ensuring that daily regional situational updates are distributed to all stakeholders and the public.

In developing Regional Implementation Plans, each Hub is being directed to work with local stakeholders and the community itself to not only build trust in the vaccine, but ensure each plan is tailored to efficiently meet each region's unique needs. For example, the needs of communities in the North Country will vary greatly from the needs of New York City. All plans must allow for efficient and expedited delivery and administration of the vaccine and be based on a fair and equitable strategy which focuses on communities with lower vaccination rates and poorer health outcomes. ***Plans must be submitted to the state no later than, and preferably sooner than, the first week of January*** to ensure they are in place and ready to be activated

once there are enough doses of the vaccine in hand to begin Phase 2 of the Vaccination Program.

All healthcare providers in the state of New York are expected to support the critical work and mission of the Regional Vaccination Networks, and the development and implementation of regional plans through active engagement. Many providers may have already heard from their local Hub, but if not, please expect to hear shortly. The Hub for each Regional Vaccination Network is:

Region	Hub Lead	Contact
New York City	GNYHA	Ken Raske
Long Island	Northwell	Michael Dowling Mark Solazzo (COO)
Hudson Valley	Westchester Medical Center	Michael Israel
Mohawk	Mohawk Valley Health System	Darlene Stromstad
Central NY	SUNY Upstate Medical Center	Dr. Mantosh Dewan Dr. Robert Corona
North Country	Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital	Michelle LeBeau
Capital Region	Albany Medical Center	Dr. Dennis McKenna
Southern Tier	United Health Services	John Carrigg
Fingerlakes Region	University of Rochester Medical Center/Strong Memorial Hospital	Steve Goldstein
Western NY	Catholic Health System, Buffalo	Mark Sullivan

New York State is fully dedicated to ensuring a comprehensive, regional approach to COVID vaccine distribution and access. Every provider has a critical role to play in this effort. Thank you for your ongoing participation in the State's efforts to confront and defeat COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of Health