



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20210324-00509-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Prioritizing Persons 50 Years of Age and Older for  
COVID-19 Vaccination

Dear Colleagues,

- Mississippi continues to make progress in our COVID-19 vaccination efforts. As of March 24, 2021, more than 1,000,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the state; with over 700,000 Mississippians receiving at least one dose and over 400,000 Mississippians fully vaccinated.
- Individuals 50 years of age and older remain the most vulnerable population, with 94% of the reported deaths and more than 80% of the hospitalizations occurring in these age groups.
- Vaccination efforts targeting these groups and other vulnerable individuals have thus far been successful, with 61.6% of persons aged 75 years and older receiving at least one vaccine dose to date (see table below).

<b>STATEWIDE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS BY AGE GROUP FOR 65+ AND 75+</b>				
Age Group	Number of People with at Least One Dose	Number of People Fully Vaccinated	Percent of Age Group Vaccinated with at Least One Dose	Percent of Age Group Fully Vaccinated
50+	499,211	306,332	<b>47.4</b>	<b>29.1</b>
65+	295,647	207,586	<b>60.7</b>	<b>42.7</b>
75+	121,810	92,928	<b>61.6</b>	<b>47.0</b>

- Through these efforts we have seen declines in cases, deaths, and hospitalizations; but we need to make sure we vaccinate as many individuals in these age groups as possible.
- **We need your help to make sure we reach this vulnerable population.** We are asking Mississippi Physicians and Providers to
  1. Identify individuals 50 years and older within your clinic setting and help facilitate vaccination.
    - a. This may be through vaccination at your facility or facilitating vaccination at other providers in the state (see the Mississippi COVID-



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19 Vaccine Provider Map at [Vaccination Against COVID-19 - Mississippi State Department of Health \(ms.gov\)](#) )

2. Check the COVID-19 vaccination status of all hospitalized individuals 16 years of age and older and facilitate vaccination at discharge.
3. **Please remind your patients and employees/staff to not delay COVID-19 vaccine waiting for a particular vaccine manufacturer; individuals should receive any COVID-19 vaccine available to them.**
4. If you are currently an enrolled provider and need an allocation of vaccine for your patients (**Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is available in orders as small as 100 doses**), please complete the survey at this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WGHP2KR> with the following information:
  - a. Contact person.
  - b. Address where vaccine will be delivered.
  - c. Number to publish on MSDH website for public to make appts for vaccine.
  - d. Number of doses requested in 100 dose increments.
5. If you have interest in becoming an COVID-19 Vaccine Provider, see this site for enrollment information [COVID-19 Vaccination Providers - Mississippi State Department of Health \(ms.gov\)](#)

As always, please call the Office of Immunizations at 601-576-7751 with questions or concerns.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
State Epidemiologist



**Alerting Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20210324-00509-ALT  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00509  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event

Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert

Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



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**Message Type:**

Alert: Indicates an original Alert  
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded  
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled  
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property  
Severe: Significant threat to life or property  
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property  
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property  
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content  
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).