



Somerset County Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Overview



The Somerset County Department of Health (SCDOH) is the lead county agency to coordinate public health disease response in emergencies, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local hospitals, medical providers, emergency medical services and other local health partners.

SCDOH is working in coordination with the CDC, NJDOH, and other federal, state and local partners in planning for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available.

Planning is ongoing, and may be amended based on the availability and delivery of vaccine to Somerset County.

Somerset County's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan complements the New Jersey state vaccination plan.

This plan aims to:

1. Provide fair and unbiased access to all who live, work and/or are educated in Somerset County
2. Protect the community from COVID-19 through vaccination (assuming vaccine effectiveness, availability and community commitment).
3. Build valid long term and ongoing trust in COVID-19 and other vaccines

Core Areas

Fair and Unbiased Access

This is aimed at eliminating disparities by involving diverse partners to work on planning and delivery of the vaccine. This can be achieved by providing vaccine in safe, familiar locations; providing information in different languages; increasing reach into communities with information; considering cost options for the underinsured/uninsured and other vulnerable groups; and removing barriers.

Phased Approach

The plan accounts for three likely phases of vaccine supply and demand:

- 1.) limited amount of vaccine
- 2.) a vaccine supply that is able to meet the demand, and
- 3.) decreased public demand for the vaccine.

Public Confidence

Somerset County, working with stakeholders and partners, will raise awareness, provide education, and activate action among public health and healthcare partners and the public to address concerns using science-based, public health and medical information from trusted sources.

County Leadership

A “whole-of-government” approach is being taken, including all to ensure that the vaccine is delivered equitably and that no group is unjustly left behind.

Expert Guidance

Somerset County leaders have drawn on subject matter experts and thought leaders as guides to this process and will continue to do so through the vaccine rollout.

Critical Populations

During Phase 1 it will be important to ensure that those most at risk of COVID-19 infection, those at risk of more severe illness or death, or those in underserved populations – including communities of color – who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic be among the first to be offered the vaccine.

Timely First-Dose Outreach and Second-Dose Reminders

Somerset County will use various methods to ensure that people receive the correct number of doses of vaccine and have a record to keep.

Efficient and Effective Local Delivery

Plans are in place for the use of PODs (Points of Dispensing) to be located in the county for convenient vaccine delivery. Somerset County is working with partner agencies to ensure proper handling and storage of vaccines.

Coordinated Inventory Management

Somerset County will utilize the NJDOH’s NJ Immunization Information System as the central registry for ordering vaccine, and reporting COVID-19 information to ensure appropriate allocation of resources.

Statewide Program Monitoring

Throughout the process, Somerset County will take measures to monitor the vaccine program to ensure the program is progressing to plan and so that corrective actions can be taken when necessary.

The SCDOH is taking proactive preparedness precautions by monitoring the situation, enhancing disease surveillance, working with area healthcare providers, and keeping the public informed.

The most up-to-date information will be made available on the SCDOH website at

www.co.somerset.nj.us/health



Let's stay healthy together.