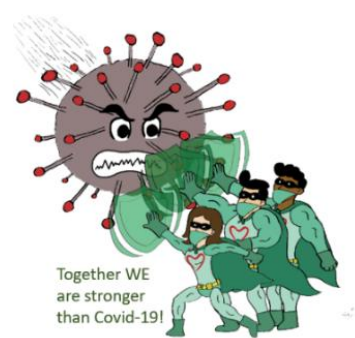


February 26, 2021



Dear families and friends:

Earlier this week, we shared an update on how individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities that reside in Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer Counties may schedule vaccination appointments, a copy is included with this communication.

To date, nearly 300 staff members have received their vaccinations and we are planning to reopen in-person site-based, art, and day community opportunities programs in phases starting in the next few weeks. The plan is to reopen slowly and you will hear directly from your program regarding the criteria. Again, our goal is to prevent the spread of this virus, please be patient as we move forward with our reopening process.

Additionally, individuals who reside within our residential program and have received both vaccine doses with at least 14 days since the second dose may be able to return to their day programs if the following conditions are met:

the residence isn't under a quarantine, the individual is symptom free, the day program has an OPWDD accepted safety plan, and the individual is capable of adhering to safe infection control practices such as wearing a mask, social distancing, hand sanitizing, etc. required by OPWDD guidelines.

Exceptions to these conditions may be made on a case-by-case basis. If you have additional questions, please reach out to the manager or assistant director of your family member's residence for more information.

At this time, we continue to strongly discourage families from visiting residences until all, or most individuals in the residences are fully vaccinated. We hope that family members will get fully vaccinated (both doses with a two week wait after 2nd dose) as part of our plan to return back to normal visitation on a house-by-house basis. As far as home visits, we are still discouraging them until individuals are fully vaccinated as described above. All OPWDD guidelines are still in effect and must still be followed relative to family visits (advance notice, documenting locations visited, infection control, out of state travel, etc.). Link to the guidelines:

https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/11.21.2020-opwdd_covid19_home-visits.pdf

REMEMBER: Vaccination and following safety and health protocols are the key to reopening responsibly. If we hear of vaccination clinics, we will immediately send an email to families that have provided their email address for quick notification. These notifications are often last minute and we encourage you to provide updated email and contact information by sending an email to info@livingresources.org with the updated information.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Klein, Associate Executive Director for Program Services at sklein@livingresources.org or 518-218-0000 x 4312. You can also contact me at emartin@livingresources.org or 518-218-0000 x 5530.

Best regards for your health and safety,

Elizabeth Martin
Chief Executive Officer

Please remember that regardless of whether you have received the vaccine or not, you MUST continue to wear your facemask covering both your mouth and nose; wash your hands and/or disinfect frequently; and maintain social distancing when possible.

***EMAIL NOTIFICATION REGARDING VACCINATION LOCATIONS BELOW:**

From: Info Livingresources
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:13 PM
Subject: WAKE UP EARLY AND SCHEDULE YOUR VACCINATION!

Dear families and friends:

As we mentioned in our last communication, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on February 15.

We have heard that many of you have struggled to make appointments and wanted to provide you with another avenue for vaccination. On Friday, Governor Cuomo announced that an additional community-based mass vaccination site will become available in the Albany area (Washington Avenue Armory) for residents in qualifying zip codes:

12202, 12206, 12210, 12209, 12207, 12222, 12180, 12307, 12308, 12305, 12304.

If you are eligible to receive the vaccine, you can begin **scheduling appointments starting tomorrow, February 24** with vaccination appointments beginning on March 3.

Here are two ways that you can schedule an appointment.

- You can use the NYS Eligibility Tool to see if there are available appointments: <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
- Or you can dial the **COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 1-833-697-4829**, the hotline is open from **7:00 am to 10:00 pm (ET) seven days a week**. Our suggestion is to get on the phone as soon as possible, however, here is a quick tip:

THIS IS IMPORTANT: The recording on the line says if you are 75 or older to hit #1 but if not, stay on the line, YOU SHOULD HIT #1 REGARDLESS OF AGE.

This is an old message and if you stay on the line, it says we are prioritizing vaccinations at this time and you do not qualify. This seems to be an error on the state's part to update their recording. We called today to confirm, **if you hit #1, they will walk you through the qualifications and then they search your zip code to see if there are available appointments in your zip code area. Again, we urge you to hit #1 and walk through the process.**

These appointments may go fast, so please be diligent and try both the online and telephone access to schedule your vaccinations.

The Governor stated that after the first week, appointments at each site will then be made available to all eligible residents of the site's county or target area. Judging by the zip codes above, this would include residents in Albany and Schenectady Counties. This would mean that beginning March 3, you should be able to contact them and schedule appointments after March 10.

Again, we are here to help and will continue to provide you with any updates on vaccine locations as we hear about them.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Martin, CEO