

Covid 19 vaccine age eligibility changed; what does it mean for you?

NH state officials said this week that they are updating their vaccine plan to make anyone age 65 or older eligible to receive a COVID-19 shot in the next phase of vaccinations. Previously, those age 75 and up would be included in Phase 1B of vaccinations in New Hampshire, but the change was made after the federal government updated its guidance in an effort to protect as many older people as possible.

The push to vaccinate those 65 and older makes sense when you look at the statistics. Gov. Chris Sununu said about 95% of those who have died of COVID-19 in the state are in that age group. But adding in more people to Phase 1B means about 300,000 Granite Staters will now be in that group. The state has been receiving about 17,000 doses of vaccine each week, and Sununu said the federal government has been saying that number should increase. If it doesn't, it might be tough to schedule a vaccination quickly.

For those who are eligible and want to be vaccinated in the next phase, Sununu said it should be a relatively easy process. Starting Jan. 22, go to vaccines.nh.gov and register. You'll then get an email with a link to click to go to another site to sign up for a date, time and location. And that should be it. You'll want to make sure you bring an ID that verifies your age with you to your vaccination appointment.

The entire vaccination schedule is still expected to last into at least May, when the final phase is scheduled to begin. As more people get vaccinated, the state will likely begin easing restrictions if case numbers go down.