

**Department of Health**

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Agency of Human Services

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**Healthcare Partners:**

With the Covid-19 vaccine now available for children ages 12 and older, we are eager to share additional resources for vaccinating children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHN); particularly for those who due to their condition, it may not be in their best interest to travel to a vaccine clinic.

The Homebound Vaccination Program partners home health agencies with emergency medical services (EMS) to offer in-home COVID-19 vaccination visits to eligible patients who are unable to travel to vaccination clinics.

Assisting CYSHN get vaccinated in their residence will be facilitated through a **2-tiered approach**:

**Tier 1:** CYSHN patients are identified by Primary Care Providers, Home Health Agencies, Specialty Providers and other health care organizations. Providers can request that a patient be added to the centralized vaccination list by emailing [AHS.VDHHOCCommander@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHHOCCommander@vermont.gov) with a request. *This is the preferred and recommended approach.*

**Tier 2:** The Health Department will open the existing call center for caregivers and self-advocates to request a visit. These requests will be evaluated by VDH staff with expertise in working with CYSHN and directed to appropriate resources. If the patient qualifies for a home visit, they will be added to the centralized vaccination list. If the patient does not qualify, they will be directed to an appropriate local vaccine clinic and, if needed, care managers will share transportation resource information.

Although we will be offering a call center, we hope that health care partners will use their expertise to screen and identify as many qualified patients as possible in lists that can be shared with vaccinating partners.

As a health care partner, the Vermont Department of Health asks that you help us identify homebound patients needing vaccination. **If your organization has patients in need, and you have not already shared a list, please email [AHS.VDHHOCCommander@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHHOCCommander@vermont.gov) to be connected with appropriate vaccinating resources.**

**To help us pre-screen individuals, consider the following eligibility criteria:**

For the purposes of the homebound vaccination program, “homebound” is defined as *an inability to leave the home for other scheduled medical or non-medical appointments.*

Reasons for being homebound include:

- A clinical, developmental, or mental health diagnosis that would potentially be exacerbated by leaving the home and/or getting vaccinated at a traditional clinic, or
- The requirement of a significant effort and medical equipment (such as a wheelchair, stretcher, or lift device) to leave the home.



People who regularly leave the home for non-medical or medical appointments are not considered homebound, regardless of whether they leave with the assistance of medical equipment.

Thank you for helping us to identify patients who are in need of this essential vaccine.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dan Batsie ([daniel.batsie@vermont.gov](mailto:daniel.batsie@vermont.gov)) Thank you for your assistance.

