



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 5, 2021 Contact: Maura Fitzgerald(DPH) 860.989.2497 Annie Scully (UW) 860.571.7215

CONNECTICUT VACCINE APPOINTMENT ASSIST LINE EXPANDING TO 12 HOURS PER DAY/7 DAYS A WEEK

125 Appointment Specialists on Duty 10,000 Appointments per week available

HARTFORD, CT - Working in partnership with the state Department of Public Health (DPH), the United Way of Connecticut has announced plans to immediately expand availability and access to vaccine scheduling through the state's Vaccine Appointment Assist Line.

Beginning Monday, February 8, 2021, 125 trained contact specialists will be available to take phone calls to schedule vaccine appointments from 8a.m. to 8p.m., seven days per week. Contact specialists will have the capability of booking up to 10,000 appointments at twelve locations across the state. This added capacity will be very important as Connecticut begins to receive larger supplies of vaccination doses on a weekly basis and prepares to expand Phase 1b eligibility to individuals between the ages of 65-74 in the coming weeks.

Here are the key points on the expansion of the Vaccine Appointment Assist Line:

- Scheduling available seven days per week
- Scheduling occurs between 8a.m. 8p.m. each day
- Minimal wait times
- Appointments being booked at 12 locations across the state
- Up to 10,000 appointments per week
- 125 contact specialists trained and answering appointment calls

The phone number to call for vaccination scheduling is: 877-918-2224.

As Connecticut's vaccination program continues, it is important for all residents to schedule appointments according to the state's priority vaccination program. Currently, the state is focused on vaccinating those residents who are 75 years of age or older. It is expected the priority groups will expand during the month of February as more vaccine doses become available. The best place to access information on vaccine priority scheduling is via ct.gov/covidvaccine.com.

"The United Way of Connecticut has been a key partner in this tremendous effort to get as many Connecticut residents vaccinated as possible. Expanding the number of operators, hours each day, and moving to seven days a week shows how seriously we are taking this effort," Acting DPH Commissioner Dr. Deidre Gifford said. "As supplies of vaccine doses increase, we will be prepared to expand vaccinations at a rapid pace."

"We have been working to expand access to vaccine appointments for months and we will continue to innovate to make this historic effort to save lives a success. The addition of staff and expansion of hours and the move to seven day a week capacity puts Connecticut in position to maintain a leadership role in this mass vaccination program," said Lisa Tepper Bates, President and CEO of the United Way of Connecticut. "We are thankful for the hard work of our partners in state government."

The United Way reiterates that language assistance is available for those who need it and the hearing impaired can access the Vaccine Appointment Assist Line by dialing 7-1-1.

