Hello. You’ve reached the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Covid-19 vaccine information Hotline. This message is being recorded on Monday, February 8th. When new information becomes available, a new message will be recorded here so please check back often. This information is also available on our website: www.frcog.org

Massachusetts is now in Phase 2 of vaccinating people. Phase 2 means that shots are now being given to individuals 75 years or older, in addition to those who qualify for Phase 1. There are multiple ways to get a vaccination. **However, there is still a limited amount of vaccine in Massachusetts.** We expect the number of doses to increase in the coming weeks, and will share that information here when it becomes available.

There are now state-run vaccination sites open across the state, and larger vaccination sites outside the county if residents are able to travel. If adequate supplies of vaccine are on hand, the Eastfield Mall in Springfield and UMass Amherst are vaccinating eligible phase 2 people. Eligible people are encouraged to travel to these larger sites if able. Please be aware that you must register before going to any vaccination site. For more information on these state-run sites visit mass.gov and navigate to the COVID-19 section “where to get a vaccine” or call 2-1-1 and follow prompts for the Massachusetts Vaccine Scheduling Resource line to talk to a live operator.

If you are over 75, and your primary care physician has contacted you to schedule your shot, please take them up on their offer to vaccinate you. Please do not call them to inquire about vaccine appointments as this overwhelms their administrative staff. Valley Medical Group, Baystate Health practices in Turners Falls and Greenfield, the Community Health Center of Franklin County, and other medical practices in the county, are presently reaching out to their patients to let them know they're eligible to make an appointment when they have enough vaccine to do so.

Seniors or caregivers looking for help can contact the LifePath organization, which has volunteers answering phones to help with questions about the vaccine. LifePath can also help register seniors for vaccination appointments, and can provide transportation for those who can't get to an appointment. LifePath is also developing a list of those who are homebound and will need someone to come to them with the vaccine. If you know someone who is homebound and could be vaccinated, call LifePath at (413) 829-9285, that’s (413) 829-9285. Your local senior center can also provide information and resources about access to vaccinations.

The Big Y supermarket and CVS pharmacy in Greenfield are now offering vaccines by appointment, subject to vaccine availability. Both Big Y and CVS require registration online, and have a form that you must complete before getting your shot at those locations. The easiest way to access the Greenfield Big Y or Greenfield CVS pharmacy vaccine registration systems is to do a Google search for “Big Y vaccines” or “CVS vaccines” to start your registration process.

The City of Greenfield is opening its vaccination site at the Jon Zon Community Center to all eligible Phase 2 Franklin County residents this week. More information on how to register by calling 413-775-6411, that is 413-775-6411.
Veterans are eligible for vaccination by age group at the VA in Leeds. To register there, call (413) 584-4040. That is (413) 584-4040.

Again, for a complete list of vaccinations sites within our region you can check the information on mass.gov which is updated regularly. Please do not register at more than one site. Vaccines are allocated per person, and missing an appointment can cause a vaccine dose to be wasted.

This hotline will be update regularly as new information becomes available. Please know that your healthcare and public health and government officials in Franklin County are working hard to improve access to vaccines for our region. Let’s all continue to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and wash our hands. Stay safe and stay well.