

UConn Employee COVID Vaccine Town Hall

Moderator: Christopher Delello
Human Resources

January 15, 2021

UConn

Agenda

- **Introduction:** Thomas Katsouleas, President
- **Summary of Employee Vaccination Planning and Rollout:** Christopher Delello, CHRO
- **UConn Fall Semester and Re-entry Overview:** Carl Lejuez, Provost
- **Questions and Answers:** Panelists

Goal: Inform, Develop Options, Create Trust, Defer Judgement

The Employee Vaccination Program is currently *voluntary though strongly encouraged*.

Panelists

- Jeffrey Aeschlimann, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Department of Pharmacy Practice
- Andy Agwunobi, CEO UConn Health and EVP for Health Affairs
- David Banach, Associate Professor of Medicine, Head of Infection Prevention, Hospital Epidemiologist
- Deborah Chyun, Dean, School of Nursing
- Vicki Fry, HR Employee Engagement and Wellness Manager, UConn Storrs
- Kent Holsinger, Dean and Vice Provost for Graduate Education

Panelists

- Anne Horbatuck, Vice President Ambulatory Services, UConn Health
- Philip Hritcko, Dean, School of Pharmacy
- Thomas Katsouleas, President
- Carl Lejuez, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Steven Lepowsky, Dean, School of Dental Medicine
- Bruce Liang, Dean, School of Medicine
- Kimberly Metcalf, AVP, Pharmacy and Ancillary Services, UConn Health
- Carol Polifroni, Director, Office for Clinical Placement Coordination

State Vaccine Phases - Phase 1a

- Overview of the State's current 4 phases and UConn's response
- **State Phase 1a:** Healthcare Providers, Long term Care Facility Residents, Long term Care Facility Staff and Medical First Responders
- **UConn's Phase 1a Response – Segment 1 (app. 500):**
 - Student Health and Wellness
 - Fire/Safety/EMT
 - Clinical Faculty and Staff
- **UConn's Phase 1a Response – Segment 2 (app. 1,700):**
 - Select Residential Life and Dining Workers with potential for contact with COVID
 - Laboratory Employees working with COVID specimens/samples
 - Facility Operations Employees with potential for contact with COVID
 - Clinical Placement Students working in clinical settings (and other eligible faculty and staff who will support COVID vaccine delivery to UConn employees)

PHASE 1a VACCINATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INTO FEBRUARY 2021

State Vaccine Phases - Phase 1b

State Phase 1b :

State Currently Scheduling

- Individuals 75 years of age and older

State NOT YET Scheduling

- Front line essential workers - defined
- Individuals between the ages of 65 and 74
- Individuals between the ages of 16 and 64 with comorbidities
- Individuals and staff in congregate settings - defined

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination---Phases#phase1b>

Frontline essential workers face work-related exposure to COVID-19 because work-related duties must be performed on-site, in proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers AND are in one of the following sectors: Healthcare personnel not included in Phase 1a, First responders, Agricultural workers, including farmworkers, Food service and restaurants, U.S. Postal Service workers, Manufacturing workers, Grocery store & pharmacy workers, Food banks and meal delivery services for the elderly, Education and child-care workers, Solid waste and wastewater workers, Inspectors working on site in the above locations, Frontline public and social services.

State Vaccine Phases - Phase 1b (cont.)

UConn Response Phase 1b:

- Individuals 75 years of age and older (~107) working on and off campuses (In process)

NOT YET Scheduled Pending Further Information & Vaccine Release – UConn's Interpretation

- Employees in ALL Categories of Spring Semester On Campus Registry not already in Phase 1a
- Graduate Assistants (GAs) working on campus in the Spring Semester
- Employees between the ages of 65 and 74 working on and off campus
- Employees between the ages of 16 and 64 with comorbidities working on and off campus
- Certain Affiliates Working on Campus in the Spring Semester
(Approximately 6,000-7,000 Employees and Affiliates)
- **FURTHER DETERMINATIONS:** Any employees not in the above categories who are or will be known to be working on campus for the Summer and Fall but not in the Spring. Any employees who will remain telecommuting with the approval of their manager not specified in the above categories through the remainder of 2021 (those not in certain age groups or with comorbidities).

PHASE 1b VACCINATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS OR LONGER

State Vaccine Phases - Phase 1c & 2

- **State Phase 1c & 2 and UConn's Tentative Response for the Employee Community:**
- These later Phases are being discussed at the State level and will include a majority of the general public not already defined. At UConn, it is anticipated to include all other Telecommuting employees and the remaining Affiliate groups, GAs known to be working in the Fall Semester on campus that were not already working in the spring semester or summer terms, adjunct faculty and temporary staff. Later Phases are expected to include students and student workers.

(Approximately 2,000-3,000 Employees and Affiliates)

- **NOTE:** New hires throughout the year are expected to be added to the appropriate Phase and vaccination schedule upon hire.

PHASES 1C AND 2 VACCINATIONS ARE EXPECTED LATER IN 2021, HOPEFULLY SUMMER

More about the Vaccine at UConn

- The vaccine used at UConn currently is the Moderna vaccine.
- Two dosages per employee (both Moderna).
- The second vaccine is scheduled 28 days following the first dose.
- Full efficacy per Moderna's expectations is 14 days after the second dose (42 days after the first dose).
- After you are vaccinated, you will be observed for app. 15 minutes while practicing social distancing

Where and When?

- Vaccinations are already taking place at Hawley Armory at Storrs on an introductory schedule before Spring Semester begins. Beginning the week of January 18th, vaccinations will begin full days on Tuesday and Thursday. It is expected that a third day will be added when available vaccination slots are fully taken.
- Employees eligible for vaccine from Hartford, Law and Waterbury campuses will be instructed to travel to Storrs or Farmington.
- Plans are under development for employees eligible for vaccine from Avery Point and Stamford to receive the vaccine on a specific day at each location.
- Efforts are underway to provide access to the vaccine for employees needing accommodations at the UCH Urgent Care Center in Storrs Downtown. More information will be available shortly.

What You Can Do

- If you intend to use the UConn employee vaccine option, please ensure you have set up a My Chart record at UConn Health. MyChart instructions will be posted on the HR website next week and will be included in your invitation to vaccinate when it is your turn.
- We know and understand this is a stressful time full of uncertainty. Please be patient and do not share your invitation with others or attempt to navigate My Chart or any systems to jump ahead in line or “test things out.” When you are eligible to receive the vaccine, you will receive an email from HR-Communications with the instructions on how to schedule an appointment
- If you are vaccinated:
 - You are still required to remain observant of and adhere to the On Campus Registry
 - All mask and social distancing protocols remain in force on UConn campuses
 - If invited to receive a COVID test, we encourage you to take the test
 - You must adhere to all State and UConn travel requirements
 - Until you receive formal messaging from the DPH and University, all University requirements in the workplace remain in force (i.e. masking, social distancing).
 - The only difference in the workplace protocols before and after your vaccination: you receive the vaccination.

Academic Re-entry Spring 21

- Class start and end dates in line with standard spring calendar with key caveats
 - 1st two weeks of classes simultaneous with 2-week residential quarantine (ALL courses online)
 - Courses with an in-person component can be in-person in Weeks 3-12
 - Spring break pushed back to week 13 (April 11-17)
 - Week 14 through the end of the semester all remote, including final assessments (April 19-May 8)
 - Last two days of semester converted to reading days (April 29-May 2)
 - Pass/Fail expansion/extension similar to fall (working on fall W ext for spring)
 - All aspects of UConn Promise remain in effect for spring regardless of vaccine status
- Spring SETs similar to fall will be conducted and counted toward PTR
 - Please consider taking advantage of mid-semester formative feedback as was an option in fall
 - Fall SET scores compare favorably to fall 2019 scores
- Student identity authentication update
- <https://provost.uconn.edu/communications/informational-memos/>

Academic Re-entry Fall 21

- Far too early to know what the academics in fall 21 semester will/should look like
- Committed to same focus on safety, balanced with commitment to creating rigorous/engaging academic experience for our students as in F20/S21
- We are starting with proofs from fall 19 to plan for registration in March & July
 - But, will pivot however necessary to ensure safety based on state guidelines & public health data
 - Convening a Future of Learning at UConn committee to advise provost/deans on how to chart our future and to support working through thorny issues supporting transitions out of the pandemic
- We expect to have vaccinations offered to those working/teaching in the fall
 - However, anyone not offered a full course of vaccination in time to be maximally effective by the start of the fall semester will be able to work/teach remotely

* <https://provost.uconn.edu/2020/10/09/provosts-message-summary-of-spring-decisions/>