



A Message From the Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health

March 2, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share exciting news: South Carolina will transition to Phase 1b of COVID-19 vaccine distribution on Monday, March 8. USC Upstate is working closely with our partners at Spartanburg Regional Hospital to understand how we can assist individuals at increased risk in getting registered.

If you are eligible in Phase 1b, and have not yet signed up via the Spartanburg Regional website, sign up via the USC Upstate Vaccine Registration Link below. From this list, you will be entered into the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) by the Spartanburg Regional Distribution Center Team.

South Carolina Phase 1b Criteria:

- Over age 55
- Over age 18 with increased medical risk factors (current cancer), chronic kidney disease (any stage), chronic lung disease, Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, heart disease (congestive heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary hypertension), HIV/AIDS, solid organ transplant, obesity (BMI >30), pregnancy, sickle cell disease.
- Front line workers with increased occupational risk:
 - Must be in-person at their place of work, and
 - Perform a job that puts them at increased risk of exposure due to their frequent, close (less than 6 feet) and ongoing (more than 15 minutes) contact with others in the work environment.

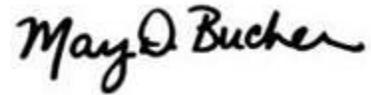
If you meet the criteria above, click this link: [USC Upstate Vaccine Registration](#).

As you await your turn for vaccination, please continue to take precautions with masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, and avoiding crowds. DHEC predicts Phase 1c to begin around April 12, which will include individuals ages 45 and older, and essential workers who do not have close contact with others. In May, it is expected that vaccines will be available for those at lower risk, without increased workplace exposure.

We encourage you to get vaccinated when it is your turn, and get your questions answered if you have concerns. If you have allergies to a component of the vaccines, or have specific

medical questions, please reach out to Health Services or your health care provider. Learn more this Thursday, March 4, from 3-4:30 p.m. in this session: [COVID-19 Vaccine Virtual Seminar](#).

Be well Spartans!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary D. Bucher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary D. Bucher, MS, APRN, FNP
Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health