



**Statement on Biden Administration’s Decision to Increase  
Community Health Centers’ COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation**

On Feb. 9, the Biden administration [announced](#) a program to partner on the pandemic response with community health centers—sometimes called federally qualified health centers—through the direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccines. The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initially selected Shenandoah Community Health in Martinsburg, W.V., and Valley Health Systems in Huntington, W.V. to participate in the vaccine allocation program based on certain criteria.

On March 11, HRSA and CDC revealed that nine additional community health centers in West Virginia—out of 700 nationally—are now eligible to participate in the vaccine allocation program. This expands the number of eligible community health centers countrywide to 950. In this phase, community health centers were invited to participate due to: 1. Serving high proportions of low income and minority patients; 2. Providing services to rural/frontier populations and 3. Utilizing mobile vans to deliver services.

The nine eligible West Virginia community health centers are listed below. Being eligible for the program does not mean that a community health center has been allocated vaccine, as it must agree to the program’s terms and conditions. The COVID-19 vaccines provided to community health centers under this program are separate from the state’s weekly allocation. This program will increase the state’s weekly vaccine supply, not reallocate or reduce it.

Name	Location
Camden-On-Gauley Medical Center, Inc.	Camden-On-Gauley, W.Va.
Community Health Systems, Inc.	Beckley, W.Va.
E.A. Hawse Health Center, Inc.	Baker, W.Va.
Mountaineer Community Health Center, Inc.	Paw Paw, W.Va.
New River Health Association, Inc.	Scarbro, W.Va.
Preston Taylor Community Health Center	Grafton, W.Va.
Rainelle Medical Center, Inc.	Rainelle, W.Va.
Tug River Health Association, Inc.	Gary, W.Va.
WomenCare, Inc.	Scott Depot, W.Va.

The West Virginia Primary Care Association (WVPCA), which represents the state’s 32 community health centers, actively participates in the state’s Joint Interagency Task Force for Vaccines (JIATF). The WVPCA serves as a liaison and strategic coordinator on the JIATF for community health centers and the large-scale vaccine clinics. Community health center vaccination efforts have been vital for West Virginians—whether vaccinating at a community health center or collaboratively with hospitals, local health departments, pharmacies, emergency management services and/or community volunteers at other sites.

“We continue to be grateful that the Biden administration understands the valuable role community health centers play in the pandemic response, particularly in rural areas like West Virginia.” Sherri Ferrell, CEO of the WVPCA, said. “This new allocation of vaccines will help the state reach the most vulnerable residents and further improve health equity in vaccination.”

***About the West Virginia Primary Care Association***

*The West Virginia Primary Care Association represents the state’s 32 community health centers, which constitute the largest independent primary care network in the state. Community health centers provide primary care, and many offer specialty care, such as dental, behavioral health, school-based health services, and fill prescriptions at affiliated pharmacies. Services and prescriptions are provided to patients regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. More than 478,000 West Virginians receive health care services from a community health center—one out of every four citizens.*

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