

In a [press release](#) today, January 12, 2021, Governor Andrew Cuomo stated that yesterday's reported test results had a positive rate of 7.6%. The State's remaining data included hospitalizations (8,926, +281), ICU patients (1,492, +66), ICU patients with intubation (909, +18), and 154 deaths. The Governor added:

If you look at the numbers over the past two weeks, you could see a flattening in the numbers after a spike from Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year. We said we would hope, hope, aspire for a flattening in late January. You could argue that you start to see a flattening now. Positivity in almost every region is down from the high during this holiday spike.

The State's website ([Am I Eligible?](#)), where you can check eligibility and schedule a vaccine appointment if eligible, is problematic. Both State and County DOHs have urged patience with the website and remain hopeful that increased shipments of doses and expanding distribution points should soon help.

Last night, the CDC announced three major changes in its recommendations for the vaccination process. Please remember that these are recommendations and each state makes the final decision for its residents. Here are the changes:

- Recommending vaccinations for person 65 years or older and any person who has a pre-existing condition that puts her or him at greater risk for a serious infection.
- Releasing all available doses and not hold back doses for the second shot based upon anticipated arrival of increasing quantity of doses to provide second shots.
- Expanding where people can get vaccinated to include community health centers and more pharmacies.

In his press release, the Governor said that the State would change Phase 1b to include persons 65 years of age or older. He warned that this group alone (65 to 74 years' old) would make 1.8 million residents eligible, and bring the total to 7 million people. He noted that, with shipments per week at 300,000 doses, it could take many months to vaccinate this group. He urged patience.

For four consecutive days now, COVID-19 data has been generally better, with mostly decreasing rates for daily, 7-day average, and 14-day average infections. There are continuing concerns about the number of local hospitalizations, continuing high numbers of new cases, and low hospital capacities. Once there is a solid week of data, there will be a better understanding if we have turned the corner.