



# Equity Council Agenda

**Zoom Meeting Time: February 24, 2021 3:30 - 4:30 PM**

## Welcomes & Introductions

- Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Chief of Staff Yvette Mendez welcomed the Council members

## COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update | Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Director Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott

- Vaccine distribution is in Phase 2 – vaccination of individuals 65 years and older. The guiding principles of Phase 2 are to minimize morbidity and hospitalizations, particularly in vulnerable populations, and ensure equitable distribution.
- Eligible individuals can get vaccinated at [State-run vaccination sites, municipal/local clinics, or at participating Walgreens or CVS pharmacy locations.](#)
- For more information about the current status of COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Rhode Island, please visit <https://covid.ri.gov/vaccination>.

## Community Feedback: What are you hearing from the community? What should the State know?

- A member voiced concerns about the need for a more refined strategy for tracking how many individuals of color are being vaccinated to ensure equitable distribution.
- A member asked about the reasoning behind vaccinating on an age-based and not occupational basis. Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott clarified by explaining the data-based approach that Rhode Island is taking to ensure that populations at highest risk of hospitalizations and fatalities are being prioritized.

## Next Steps

- The RIDOH team will share additional vaccination data with Equity Council members.
- State staff will provide the vaccine operations team with the Equity Council's recommendations, including making race and ethnicity questions required when registering for the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Close

- Closing remarks given by Yvette Mendez

