



# FYI SALEM

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## From the Mayor's Desk



Dear Salem resident,

As you likely know by now, Massachusetts is now in "Group 2" of Phase 2 of the state's vaccine program.

This group includes all residents over the age of 65, anyone who lives or works in affordable senior housing buildings, and anyone with two more specific medical conditions – regardless of their age. You can find a list of those medical conditions at [saalem.com/vaccine](https://saalem.com/vaccine).

You can also visit that website to find links to

vaccine clinics here in Salem and in our surrounding communities, where you can make an appointment to get the vaccine.

Please note that appointments at all clinics are only posted when they have vaccine doses available.

Be sure to check all the clinic sites listed at [saalem.com/vaccine](https://saalem.com/vaccine) to find one that works for you.

We've also added links to other useful online tools for finding available vaccine appointments in our area, frequently asked questions about the vaccine, and much more.

At present the federal government is providing the state with limited vaccine amounts of approximately 100,000 vaccine doses per week. This latest group of eligible Massachusetts residents is estimated at 1 million people. We ask for your

patience as until the federal government begins releasing more doses of the vaccine, the Commonwealth has a very limited supply.

This is a marathon, not a sprint, and we're all in it together. Please be patient, plan to get vaccinated when it's your time, and, if it takes you a couple of weeks to find an appointment, don't give up. A lot more people are looking for appointments right now than our state has vaccine for—but that's changing daily.

As additional vaccines become available, we'll be ready to vaccinate more people at the local level!

Thanks for your patience and stay safe.

Kim Driscoll  
Mayor  
City of Salem

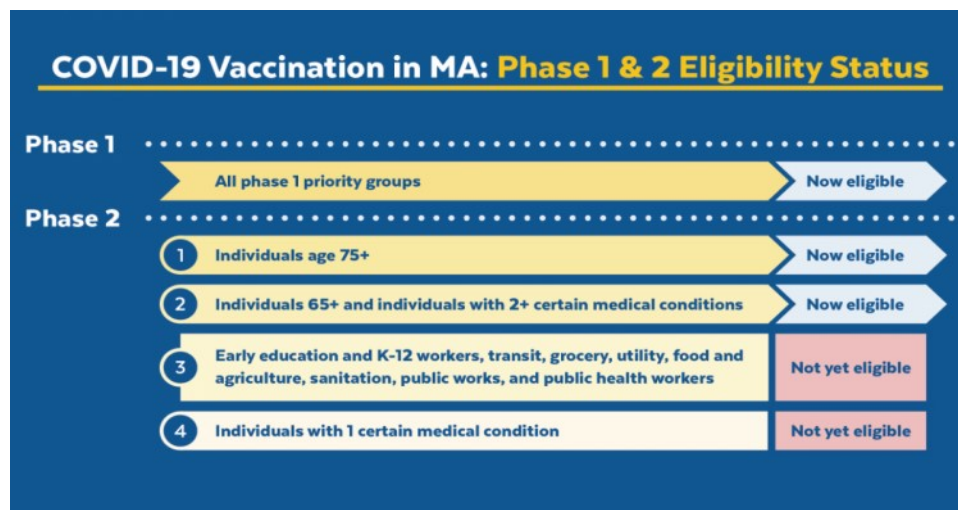
# Homebound Vaccinations

The City of Salem invites homebound residents to register for an at-home COVID-19 vaccination program being developed, conditional on the availability of vaccine from the Commonwealth. Vaccine is not currently available. Registration indicates to the City that the resident is medically home- or bed-bound and unable, even with assistance, to be able to access a vaccination clinic site. This registration is only available to Salem residents who are medically home- or bed-bound.



Homebound residents or their caregivers can complete the brief form at [www.salem.com/homebound](http://www.salem.com/homebound) or request a hard copy of the form be mailed to them by calling the Salem Council on Aging (COA) at (978) 744-0924. Whether completed online or in hard copy, forms must be completed and returned before noon on Friday, March 5th. Local health and social worker staff will review registrations for eligibility for at-home vaccination based on medical infirmities and either prioritize eligible residents for vaccination at home, once vaccine becomes available, or provide the listing to state public health officials who may be conducting at-home vaccination.

"We are working diligently to broaden access to as many eligible Salem residents as possible," said Mayor Kim Driscoll. "This registration is part of our on-going efforts to ensure that our community's most vulnerable are able to get this vital protection against COVID-19. I encourage any Salem senior who is not able to leave their home to complete this registration, or have their caregiver do so, so that we will be able to get to them with the vaccine as soon as it's available to us."



The latest COVID response information from the City of Salem can be found at [www.salem.com/covid](http://www.salem.com/covid).

Case data, public health guidance and advisories, links to resources, and much more.



**Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)  
Information**

**City of Salem**  
[salem.com/covid](http://salem.com/covid)



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Call for Artists

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll and the Salem Public Art Commission seek Creatives to participate in the City of Salem's newly revitalized Artists' Row Public Artist in Residence initiative.



The Artists' Row initiative is a seasonal program that provides space for artists and artisans looking to build their audience and/or arts practice through daily engagement with residents and visitors to Salem. Participation in the Artists' Row program is envisioned as a springboard opportunity for creatives wherever they are in their career that can help take them to the next stage/level in their unique professional development journey. It is very much a shared space for artists and visitors alike, where creativity happens, and unique arts-related goods and activities can be experienced in an animated public place.

The City of Salem is currently looking to fill one (1) paid position for a Public Artists in Residence, lasting for a term of 8 months. The City is interested in uses that will contribute to the vibrancy of the Artists' Row community and this important gateway to Salem's bustling downtown. The variety of activities/uses considered for Artists' Row spaces include, but are not limited to, original uniquely produced or handcrafted artworks and products, performances, art 'happenings', art 'interventions', art making, and temporary public art installations. To view the full Call for Artists submissions, visit: <http://bit.ly/SalemPAiR2021>



# Century Trees

The first four Century Trees were planted by the City last fall in locations where the public may enjoy them. Two London planetrees were planted in the front lawn of the Salem Post Office, an American elm on Broad Street at the Pickering House and a katsura tree on Dalton Parkway. On February 23rd, Mayor Kimberley Driscoll placed the commemorative tags on these first Century trees in preparation for the coming 400th anniversary of Salem's founding in 1626.

The Century Tree program will run over several years, to plant as many of these trees as possible so Salem's skyline of tall, majestic trees will flourish throughout the 21st century. The program is looking for additional planting locations on public or private land where these large trees will have room to grow and will be visible from the public right of way. The most successful Century Tree will benefit from a person or group who will commit to water

and nurture it until it is established. Trees on private property will be planted by the City and monitored for two years under of the oversight of Salem Tree Warden Bob LeBlanc. After that, the property owner will maintain the tree. Century Trees will be landmarks of beauty in Salem neighborhoods for generation, and that is good for everyone.

“Salem is committed to our public trees as a critical part of our climate change mitigation strategy, our beautification efforts, and our historic legacy as a green city,” said Mayor Driscoll. “That includes the Century Tree initiative and its function both as an ecological investment and as a celebration of our quadricentennial.”

To learn more about the Century Tree program or how to donate to the Salem Tree Fund, visit [www.salem.com/tree-commission](http://www.salem.com/tree-commission).

# School Updates

## DR. ZRIKE'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND GOALS

As part of Dr. Zrike's entry plan, he has created a document of findings and strategic priorities that he has identified as areas of focus. This document has been shaped by the countless conversations and input sessions that Dr. Zrike has had with stakeholders- *staff, students, parents, School Committee members, and community leaders*- since he started in July. The invaluable feedback he received informs a series of strategic priorities, initiatives, and goals that build from the existing Salem Public Schools strategic plan. It is not meant to overhaul the current plan, but rather to prioritize and focus on critical work that still needs to be accomplished. Equity must be at the core of these efforts, the lens through which we examine everything we do and serve as the operating principle through which we ground our improvement.

Dr. Zrike wants your feedback on these priorities, initiatives, and metrics in advance of his formal presentation to the School Committee on Monday, March 1st. You can share your thoughts on these strategic priorities via the following form: <https://forms.gle/NVMuv25HggKk8Qyt7> If you are interested in additional conversations, you can email [superintendent@saalemk12.org](mailto:superintendent@saalemk12.org) or complete the form and include your name and interest at the bottom.

## SIGNING UP AND CONSENT FOR STUDENT TESTING

This week we began expanded testing of our students in our schools. In order to enroll your child in covid testing at their school, you must fill out the consent form. You only need to do this once but we do need consent from the parent in order for your child to participate in the weekly testing. It is pooled testing by an easy nasal swab that students can do themselves (but we do help our youngest students) and adds another layer of safety and peace of mind for our in-person students AND our staff. We are proud to say that the testing this week revealed ZERO positives. All tests were negative for the students that took part in this testing opportunity. As with any new process, there have been and will be bumps in the road that will smooth over with time. Some families at the beginning of the week received notification from Beacon about test results. In the future, you will only receive a notification if your student was in a positive pool and that notification would come from a Salem Public Schools staff member.

To register and provide consent for your student to participate, please go to this page on our website and click the link for your child's school. Please remember, you are completing the form for your child, not for you (a quick check recommended by the organization is to make sure you're putting in your student's birthday, not yours). You must complete the form by clicking "consent" on the last page. A dashboard that says "schedule a test" pops up - please ignore it! That function is not for schools, but rather for the public sites. You need to complete one form per child. If you run into obstacles, we highly recommend the testing organization's FAQ: <https://help.beacontesting.com/article/83-registration-guide-for-parents>.

## COMMUNITY BUDGET FORUMS

Dr. Zrike will be hosting forums to provide an opportunity for the community to learn about our strategic priorities as well as the budget planning process and to provide input on the 21-22 school year budget. (Separate forums will be scheduled for staff.) You can register to attend one of the community forums by clicking on the desired date below and providing your name and email address.

**March 8, 2021 06:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuc-6pqzkrEtOJUH5WHD66PPXu3qe9Fil>

**OR**

**March 17, 2021 06:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

Register in advance for this meeting: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqde-qrijosGNSHj\\_W6LmzRRn02YViDxqg0](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqde-qrijosGNSHj_W6LmzRRn02YViDxqg0)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.