

# 'Limited' walk-ins reopen for Prisma vaccinations



LAUREN PIERCE | THE JOURNAL

Oconee Memorial Hospital in Seneca is among the Prisma Health sites across the state that will be offering limited walk-in COVID-19 vaccinations beginning today. To check availability, visit [prismahealth.org/vaccine](https://prismahealth.org/vaccine).

## COVID-19 shots available to 70 and older, 1b category

BY NORM CANNADA  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Limited walk-in vaccinations will be available beginning today at Oconee Memorial Hospital and five other Prisma Health sites.

Dr. Saria Saccocio, co-chair of Prisma Health's Vaccine Task Force, made the announcement during a Zoom meeting with media on Wednesday morning. She said the walk-ins would be able to get vaccines "as long as supplies allow" at the sites, which include Oconee,

Columbia, Sumter, Greenville, Greer and Laurens.

Those who are in category 1b for vaccine priority — including everyone 70 and older — can check on availability at the sites starting today at [prismahealth.org/vaccine](https://prismahealth.org/vaccine) or by calling (833) 277-4762.



Saccocio

"Each vaccination site will manage walk-in access as vaccine supply (allows) according to what is available that same day," Saccocio said. "We'll

make sure we have vaccines for people who have scheduled appointments for that day and also for anyone who is due that second dose, since people need to complete their vaccinations within a certain time frame.

"While the surest way to receive a vaccination is to have an appointment, we know that many of those over the age of 70 do not have computers or emails to register themselves," she added. "We'll have staff onsite every day to personally help

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# VACCINATIONS: 'We're doing our best'

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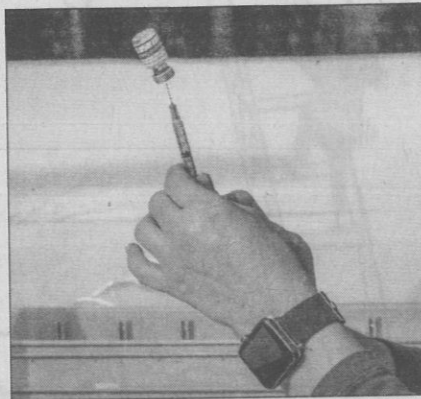
register those people 70 and older who do not have computers or email access to make their appointments. If the vaccine is available while they're there, we'll vaccinate them same day as well."

She encouraged those who already have appointments to keep them, noting that some people have not shown up for their vaccination appointments.

Saccocio added that Prisma is still getting significantly fewer doses than it has asked for and cannot yet meet the demand for vaccines.

"We're asking the public for your patience," she said. "As of right now, the number of individuals who want a vaccine far, far exceeds the number of vaccines we receive from public officials. We're committed to getting as many shots in the arms of South Carolinians as quickly as possible.

"We are doing our best to maintain all appointments and balance



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

**A Prisma Health employee fills a syringe with the COVID-19 vaccine in Greenville recently.**

that with our walk-ins and second doses that are due," Saccocio added. "If we run out of supply, that is something we do not necessarily have control of. We have continued to request for increased supply from South Carolina, and this will be something we continue to watch.

Appointments are not all kept. For this reason, we want to make sure that the most vaccines go into the arms of South Carolinians. That is why we do run the possibility of perhaps for somebody who does have an appointment scheduled not having supply available. We're doing our best to manage these numbers."

A news release Wednesday afternoon from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) cited a report from national health care information forum Becker's Hospital Review ranking South Carolina 10th in the nation "for administering more than 61 percent of the total doses of the vaccine received in the state."

The Becker's report uses data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide a uniform comparison of vaccine usage among states. It shows the rate at which doses are used based on the total number of shots given out of total doses received.