

West Virginia's Vaccine Distribution Success



West Virginia has been successfully distributing COVID-19 vaccines. For the past three weeks it was either the number-one or two state in the nation for vaccine doses administered per capita, with more than 85% of its delivered vaccine doses administered.

[In this week's *Path Forward*](#), a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation event series, Chamber President Suzanne Clark talked with West Virginia Governor Jim Justice (R) about the [state's success](#) and what can be learned.

By the numbers: West Virginia was the first in the nation to complete its second round of COVID-19 vaccinations [at all nursing homes and assisted living facilities](#) statewide. As of Feb. 1, West Virginia has administered 194,488 first doses and 68,392 second doses, totaling [262,880 doses administered](#) overall statewide.

What worked? “We knew this [vaccination drive] was all about age, age, and age. We knew we had to develop an all-encompassing strategy with our local pharmacies, local health clinics, and National Guard. We needed to put shots in arms,” Gov. Justice explained. “We’ve got a new system in place, maybe the first in the entire country. That basically calls our people, sets up appointments, emails, texts. So that it’s a much more orderly approach.”

Lessons learned: “People all across this country—whether it be in New York, or Los Angeles, or West Virginia—people go to their local pharmacies, to their local doctors, to their local health clinics,” he added. “You have to take this [the vaccine] to the people. This model can work anywhere in this country.”

Bottom line: It's vital that Americans get vaccinated or have a plan to get vaccinated once supplies become available [for their group](#). The approved vaccines are safe, widely available and help protect you, your family, and others—so make getting one a priority.

Learn more:

- For more information on COVID-19 vaccination in your area, contact [your local health department](#).
- Visit the Chamber's [Digital Resources Center](#) for reopening your business.