



# TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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## **TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON HOLDS FIRST VACCINATION CLINIC AT WAINSCOTT CENTER**

**With NYS and County vaccine centers distant from East Hampton, and appointments virtually impossible to obtain, the Town of East Hampton creates own clinic to serve local residents**

More than 300 East Hampton community members received vaccinations against COVID-19 on February 13 at a vaccination center created by the Town of East Hampton at a former school building in Wainscott.

Teachers, grocery and small food store workers, and members of emergency service organizations in the town received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine, and will receive their second dose in a subsequent vaccination clinic at the former Child Development Center of the Hamptons school in Wainscott.

Noting the obstacles to vaccination for East Hampton residents, both geographical and in terms of supply, East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc has been advocating that the East End get a fair share of the vaccines supplied by New York State to Suffolk County, and has repeatedly made the case that East Hampton itself could best serve its local residents.

In response, Suffolk County agreed early last week to provide a portion of its vaccine allotment to the Town, and County Executive Steve Bellone's office worked with the East Hampton team to finalize the vaccine supply transfer.

Hundreds of volunteers answered the Town's call for help — so many that the Town had to suspend taking names — and several dozen of them, a team of doctors, nurses, EMTs, and community residents, served at the clinic on Saturday. Several local school nurses

were on hand, and an East Hampton Village Ambulance Association EMT team and ambulance stood by all day.

Dr. Gail Schonfeld, an East Hampton pediatrician, served as the medical lead. Dr. George Dempsey, a member of the planning team, was also on hand.

Conor Cassara, a licensed pharmacist who recently took over Park Place Chemist in East Hampton, oversaw administrative efforts related to the vaccine.

The vials containing the COVID vaccine were picked up personally on Friday from a Suffolk County clinic in Riverhead by Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc, with an East Hampton Town Police Department escort, Officer Joe Montiel.

The planning team included, in addition to Supervisor Van Scoyoc, his executive assistant Joanne Pilgrim, Councilman David Lys, and Drs. Schonfeld and Dempsey, Sheila Rogers of the East Hampton Health Care Foundation, Dr. Ralph Gibson, Thomas Sessa, a professional in the digital data field and local resident who offered his services, and Peter Ciaccia, a Montauk resident experienced in coordinating large events such as the New York City Marathon, who also volunteered his help.

Suffolk County's Commissioner of Information Technology, Scott Mastellon, oversaw the required registration and appointment system, and was on hand at the clinic for troubleshooting, along with the town's IT team.

Councilman David Lys oversaw onsite planning and coordinated the effort by members of East Hampton Town's Buildings and Grounds crew to prepare the building, which, by clinic day, had been fully outfitted and transformed into nothing short of a medical clinic.

The doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine were offered on Saturday to eligible members of the NYS-designated "Phase 1B" group that Suffolk County is required to prioritize for vaccination. That priority group for the County does not yet include those age 65 and up, who are, however, eligible for vaccination through pharmacies and NYS vaccination centers.

The Town will continue seeking opportunities to offer vaccination clinics, particularly in partnerships with pharmacies and doctors who can offer vaccinations to our age 65-and-over residents or other eligible categories. There is no sign-up or waiting list at this time.