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SCRIPT BELOW:

About one-third of the COVID-19 vaccine doses sent to North Carolina have been administered to eligible individuals.

An estimated 220,000 doses remain unadministered by the state, leaving some people in high-priority groups questioning when they will receive their doses.

State Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen said the state is changing its distribution approach in press conference on Wednesday.

Cohen - Moving forward, the state will modify vaccine allocations to hospitals and local health department based on the number of vaccines that they report giving.

Vaccinating a small portion of the state's **10.5 million residents** has been a complicated task compounded by scheduling issues, misinformation about vaccine safety, reporting glitches and logistical challenges.

Denny Sot - we have not faced the challenge such as this, in our lifetime, where we are having to roll out a vaccine to provide, you know, coverage at the highest numbers to people and in the state in the country. So with that comes a lot of challenges.

Thomas Denny is chief operating officer at the Duke Human Vaccine Institute and says with medical personnel having to divide attention between caring for patients ill with the virus and administering the vaccine the task at hand isn't easy.

In the original vaccination plan, the next prioritized group would have been individuals 65 and older with two comorbidities. The state changed its plan in late December after the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new recommendations for prioritization.

Under the new plan, the next group prioritized for vaccination includes three subgroups to be given doses in this order: individuals 75 and older, front-line essential workers 50 and older and front-line essential workers.

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