

OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **CDC has updated clinical guidance** – Several items have been updated in the [CDC's Clinical Considerations](#), including:
 - **Second dose maximum interval 6 weeks after first dose** – Previous guidance had not identified a maximum interval between doses; the latest says the second dose should occur as closely to the due date as possible, but not exceed 6 weeks after the first dose, regardless of manufacturer.
 - **Timing for administering COVID-19 vaccines in respect to other vaccines** – The vaccine series should routinely be administered alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration with any other vaccine. However, mRNA COVID-19 and other vaccines may be administered within a shorter period in situations where the benefits of vaccination are deemed to outweigh the potential unknown risks of vaccine coadministration (e.g., tetanus toxoid-containing vaccination as part of wound management, measles or hepatitis A vaccination during an outbreak) or to avoid barriers or delays to mRNA COVID-19 vaccination (e.g., in long-term care facility residents or healthcare personnel who received influenza or other vaccinations prior to/upon admission or onboarding). If mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are administered within 14 days of another vaccine, doses do not need to be repeated for either vaccine.
- **Resources available for working with patients with disabilities** – the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has developed [Vaccine Provider Best Practices](#), suggestions for administering COVID-19 vaccines to people with developmental disabilities in clinic or drive-thru environments. Supplemental materials include:
 - [Getting a Vaccine: What to Know About Me](#) - this form can be filled out by a person with a disability, or their caregiver, to help a provider best serve the patient.
 - [Getting a Vaccine: What to Expect](#)
 - [Social Story: Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
 - [Plain Language FAQ](#)
- **New VaxText resource** – The CDC's [VaxText text messaging resource](#) is a free service that providers can offer to vaccine recipients if you do not already have a text or email reminder system in place. By texting ENROLL to 1-833-VaxText (829-8398), vaccine recipients can opt in to receive a weekly text reminder for their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine or a reminder if they are overdue for their second dose. The service is available in English or Spanish.
- **Continue proper reporting** – Please continue to report all necessary information, including target population and occupation (TP/O) data, [recently updated for Phase 1B](#); temperature monitoring exclusions; and vaccine waste, following the proper reporting protocols for each.
- **Submit information for statewide Vaccine Provider Location search** – Providers must provide vaccine administration location addresses, public phone numbers, and websites; enrolled providers should [follow these instructions to submit or update information](#).
- **No vaccine should be wasted** – If vaccine remains unused, such as at the end of a vaccination clinic, the primary goal should be to provide that vaccine quickly to eligible vaccine recipients. When that is not possible, please administer vaccine to any available individuals who meet the FDA's requirements for that product. Providers should have a plan ready for what to do if extra doses that need to be administered urgently remain after a clinic.
- **Correction from last week's update** – Additional guidance is forthcoming regarding those individuals with [qualifying medical conditions](#) who will become eligible Feb. 15.

RESOURCES

HOW TO ENROLL

[Pandemic Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information](#)

PROVIDER RESOURCES

[Pandemic Vaccine Provider Resource Page](#)

[FAQ for Health Providers](#)

[Phase 1B guidance](#)

UPDATED

PFIZER RESOURCES

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Providers](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Patients](#)

MODERNA RESOURCES

[EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers](#)

[EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)

VACCINE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

This [toolkit](#) will be expanded with additional resources but is being provided now to support your immediate needs.

TALKING POINTS

The most trusted voices when it comes to information about COVID-19 are an individual's personal physician, medical experts, and emergency room doctors, followed by public health officials.

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
- In the early stages of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, doses will be available in limited supply for specific critical populations as a part of phased approach. As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated.
- Vaccines are in short supply in Ohio and across the country. Each week, the federal government will inform Ohio of its statewide vaccine allocation, and providers will be notified of how many doses of vaccine they will be receiving the following week.
- It will take time to distribute all of the vaccine given the limited doses available. So, someone who is 80 or older, for example, will still be able to be vaccinated in the coming weeks as additional age groups become eligible.
- While we know that many people in our community are eager to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we must be patient while demand for the vaccine remains higher than the available supply. As vaccine supply increases, we will be able to vaccinate more of those in Phase 1B, and eventually, all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated will be able to receive COVID-19 vaccines.
- The vaccine has been shown to decrease the severity of illness in people who catch this virus. Having a significant portion of Ohioans vaccinated will help us prevent serious hospitalizations and death.
- The COVID-19 vaccine development process included several steps comparable with those used to develop earlier vaccines, such as the flu or chicken pox vaccine. The FDA and independent medical experts have ensured that every detail of these vaccines are thoroughly and rigorously evaluated.
- Using all the tools available to help prevent the spread of the virus continues to be critical until a substantial number of Ohioans can be vaccinated. Continuing to wear masks and social distance will reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus. Proper prevention measures — like wearing a mask, washing your hands, and practicing social distancing — coupled with the vaccine, will provide the best protection from COVID-19.
- You should continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing after being vaccinated. While the vaccine should protect you from becoming sick with COVID-19, not enough is known about whether or not you can still carry the virus and spread it to others. At this time, those who get the vaccine should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine

[Ohio's Phased Approach](#)

[Phase 1A Vaccine Distribution Graphic](#) and [Fact Sheet](#)

[Phase 1B Distribution Graphic and medical conditions](#)

[Myths vs. Facts](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines FAQ](#)

[Safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines](#) 

CDC RESOURCES

[Communications Toolkit for Medical Centers, Clinics and Clinicians](#)

[Vaccinate with Confidence](#)

[Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)

[Understanding COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines](#)

[About V-Safe](#)

[Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[What to Expect at Your Vaccine Appointment](#)

[Ensuring Safety of Vaccines](#)

[Different Vaccines](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA POST IDEAS

- Vaccines are available at more than 750 locations across Ohio – like pharmacies, local health departments, and hospitals. Find a provider near you with the statewide search tool  <http://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov>.
- Safe. Effective. Rigorously tested. #COVID19 vaccines are rolling out to older Ohioans. While it will take time before it is available for everyone, it's the best way to protect our health and help Ohio on the road to recovery. <https://youtu.be/p0-MgPCQFhk>
- We know you've got questions about the #COVID19 vaccine, like when and where you can get it in our community. Learn this and more on our local #COVID19 vaccine page  [\[Link to provider or local landing page with more information\]](#)
- Vaccine supply is limited across the country, and here in Ohio. As the number of available doses increases, #COVID19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated. Stay informed with [\[Link to provider or local landing page with more information\]](#)
- Trust the FACTS: #COVID19 vaccines won't change your DNA, alter your genetic makeup, or implant you with a tracking chip. Find reliable information and debunked myths at <https://bit.ly/OHVaccineMyths>.
- FACT: #COVID19 vaccines weren't rushed and have been thoroughly vetted through a rigorous safety assessment involving independent medical professionals. See more myths vs. facts at <https://bit.ly/OHVaccineMyths>.