OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE
WEEKLY UPDATE

#IN THIS
TOGETHER
Ohio

Feb. 8, 2021

PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **Ohio launching new Vaccine Management Solution (VMS) -** The VMS, rolling out to providers on a staggered schedule this week, will help Ohioans determine COVID-19 vaccine eligibility and offer streamlined scheduling, eliminating the need to make numerous phone calls or visit numerous websites. Public access to the web-based program is forthcoming. More details are available on this VMS Provider Training page. Advantages of the program include:
  - Ohio VMS is a state-supported solution at no cost to vaccine providers.
  - It offers vaccine providers a consistent approach for scheduling vaccinations.
  - Ohio VMS offers more visibility to the public around how to get their vaccinations.
  - The more providers who opt into this program, the more helpful it will be for the public. This solution is maximized by the number of providers participating and is designed to offer a one-stop resource for Ohioans.

- **Process announced for medical disorders group beginning Feb. 15 –** As a part of Ohio's Phase 1B vaccinations, the group becoming eligible beginning the week of Feb. 15 with specific qualifying medical conditions will be permitted to be vaccinated by the provider of their choice. As we open up to this population, we ask that providers do their best to actively identify this population from existing patients while also making vaccine available to those who self-identify as having one of the conditions listed in the Phase 1B Medical Conditions sheet. This list should be published on your website and be used to verbally confirm that a patient meets the eligibility requirement. The State of Ohio is not requiring any additional documentation or proof of eligibility; however, providers may develop their own screening and monitoring procedures to evaluate eligibility.

- **Save the date for Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls** – Ohioans can hear from medical experts, community leaders, public health professionals, frontline workers, and people who have been vaccinated. More details for how to watch livestreams for the following audiences will be shared in the near future:
  - Monday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. – African American Ohioans
  - Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. – Hispanic/Latino Ohioans
  - Monday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. – Asian American and Pacific Islander Ohioans
  - Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. – Rural Ohioans

- **Ohio administers more than 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine** – Although vaccines are still scarce, Ohio's strategic phased approach has allowed vaccine to be administered to more than one million residents. Among these early groups to be vaccinated are Ohio's most vulnerable populations, such as nursing home residents and older Ohioans, who account for the highest number of COVID-19 related deaths. A review of vaccines administered the last few weeks is below:

Week of	First Doses Administered	Second Doses Administered
Jan. 11 – 17, 2021	138,361	24,121
Jan. 18 – 24, 2021	201,872	53,865
Jan. 25 – 31, 2021	217,317	111,930

- **Updated Target Population/Occupation Checklists –** Please share the updated TP/O Checklist and TP/O Codes documents with your Information Technology (IT) department if system modifications are necessary.

- **Johnson & Johnson has submitted EUA application –** Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine will be considered by the FDA on Feb. 26, and if approved, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) would meet shortly thereafter, and Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccines could begin being used in the U.S. The federal government has contracted with J&J to deliver 100 million doses of its vaccine by the end of June, if it is approved.

RESOURCES

HOW TO ENROLL

Pandemic Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information

PROVIDER RESOURCES

Pandemic Vaccine Provider Resource Page

FAQ for Health Providers

Phase 1B guidance

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

Priority Populations Distribution Fact Sheet

Phase 1B Distribution Graphic and medical conditions

Myths vs. Facts

COVID-19 Vaccines FAQ

Safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines

Trust the facts graphic

CDC RESOURCES

Communications Toolkit for Medical Centers, Clinics and Clinicians

Vaccinate with Confidence

Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work

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

- Our road back is just beginning, and we need your help. Please continue to social distance and wear a mask, until we're all protected and back to the way we remember. #InThisTogetherOhio https://youtu.be/yLIyeq7juls

- Vaccines are available at nearly 1,000 locations across Ohio – like pharmacies, local health departments, federally qualified health centers, 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

- When can I get my COVID-19 vaccine? Ohioans eligible:
  - ☑ Age 65+
  - ☑ Those with intellectual or developmental disability AND certain medical conditions
  - ☑ K-12 school employees
  - ⏳ Feb. 15 - Those with specific medical conditions
  - ⓘ bit.ly/OhioVaccine
  [suggested graphic: Phase 1B medical conditions]

- Trust the FACTS: #COVID19 vaccines won't change your DNA, alter your genetic makeup, implant you with a tracking chip, or cause infertility. See more debunked myths at https://bit.ly/OHVaccineMyths
  [suggested graphic: Trust the Facts 4]