OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE
WEEKLY UPDATE

PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine gets EUA** – The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) on Saturday, Feb. 27, granted an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the single-dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. This move follows a vote by the FDA Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee on Friday to recommend the vaccine's use during this ongoing public health emergency. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met Sunday, Feb. 28, and recommended the vaccine's use. These steps paved the way for shipments to begin immediately.

- **Increased vaccine availability** – Governor Mike DeWine announced Monday, March 1, that Ohio is expected to receive more than 448,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week, the highest allocation to date. Of that total, more than 96,000 doses of the new Janssen vaccine will be delivered to around 200 new independent pharmacy providers as well as chain pharmacies, hospitals, and health departments. As a result, more enrolled vaccine providers will receive supply. Shipment quantities for the Janssen vaccine may vary over the next few weeks while production ramps up. Ohio now offers more than 1,200 provider locations.

- **New groups eligible for vaccination** – On Monday, March 1, Governor DeWine announced, in response to the increased vaccine supply, expanded vaccine eligibility for Ohioans with Phases 1C and Phase 2, effective Thursday, March 4.
  - **Phase 1C** includes approximately 246,000 eligible Ohioans with certain occupations and with certain medical conditions not addressed in previous phases.
    - Medical groups: Type 1 diabetes, pregnant women, bone marrow transplant recipients, ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).
    - Occupations: Child care services, funeral services, law enforcement and corrections officers, and firefighters.
  - **Phase 2** will open with more vaccine eligibility based on age, due to the risk of more **severe** reactions and outcomes of COVID-19 increasing with age. The first group eligible will be Ohioans age 60 and older. This group includes approximately 695,000 eligible Ohioans.
  - The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has issued guidance for providers for Phase 1C and Phase 2. Those resources are available on the COVID-19 Vaccine Providers page.

- **VMS 411 sessions to be held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 3 p.m. –** Learn more about Ohio's Vaccine Management Solution (VMS), a new resource that will soon be available for Ohioans to determine vaccine eligibility and schedule an appointment. VMS 411 sessions will go over key questions and concerns, highlight best practices in capturing data within the VMS system, and capture provider feedback. New providers will be required to use the system.
  When: Every Wednesday and Friday, from 3-4 p.m. (ending Friday, April 2, 2021)
  How to join:
  Online using Microsoft Teams: http://bit.ly/OhioVMA411
  By phone: 872-215-2965 (Phone conference ID: 739 278 746#)
  One-click dial by phone: +1 872-215-2965, 739278746#

- **ICYMI: COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls** – In case you missed them live, the COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls are available online and on demand. Find information about how to watch at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

- **NEW: COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES HUB** – ODH has launched a new resource to help communicate information about the COVID-19 vaccine. The new Communications Resources Hub offers various print, digital, audio, and video resources and educational materials. The website offers materials created for specific groups, including minorities and Ohioans who speak English as a second language. Please contact minorityhealth@odh.ohio.gov to share suggestions.

RESOURCES

HOW TO ENROLL

Pandemic Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information

PROVIDER RESOURCES

Pandemic Vaccine Provider Resource Page

FAQ for Health Providers

Phase 1B guidance

Phase 1C guidance

Phase 2 guidance

RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine

Ohio's Phased Approach

Priority Populations Distribution Fact Sheet

Myths vs. Facts

COVID-19 Vaccines FAQ

Safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines

Trust the facts graphic

Understanding how the different vaccines work

Preparing for your COVID-19 vaccination

Acceptable forms of ID

Communications Resources Hub

Talking points for community leaders

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.

- All three COVID-19 vaccines protect you against severe illness, including hospitalization and death. Ohioans are urged to take the first vaccine available to them.
- In the early stages of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, doses will be available in limited supply for specific critical populations as part of a phased approach. As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated.
- Whether you hear myths on social media, at work, or from friends or family, there is a lot of dangerous misinformation out there about COVID-19 vaccines. The truth is that COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and rigorously tested. Trust the facts.
- 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 now Phases 1C and 2. Eventually, as vaccine becomes widely available, 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 is 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA POST IDEAS

- 🧐Curious about #COVID19 vaccines?
  🔍Find answers to your questions at Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls w/ medical experts, community leaders, & public health professionals. Watch on demand. ℹ️**coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall**
- Safe. Effective. Rigorously tested. Older Ohioans are now eligible to receive #COVID19 vaccines if they choose. Vaccines are limited, and rolling out in a phased approach, and will eventually be available to all Ohioans. https://youtu.be/p0-MgPCQFhk
- We know you have questions about the #COVID19 vaccine, like "Are they effective?" and "What are the side effects?" Learn this and more in the COVID-19 vaccine FAQ →| https://bit.ly/OhioVaccineFAQ
- Vaccines are available at approximately 1,200 locations across Ohio – including 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.
- 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]