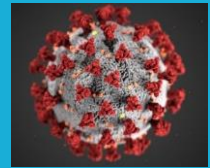


STATE OF CALIFORNIA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



Executive Summary – INTERIM DRAFT

October 26, 2020

Introduction

California's Interim COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is guided by the principles of safety, equity and transparency. The draft plan, subject to updates, describes how California will operationalize its COVID-19 vaccination program.

COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Highlights

Section 3: Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

California is adopting CDC's three-phased approach to vaccination. To support this approach, California is creating a scalable foundation based on rigorous data analysis to rapidly expand capacity as more vaccine becomes available. In Phase 1, when vaccine supply is expected to be limited, California will focus its efforts on vaccinating its critical populations, including healthcare personnel, people at increased risk for severe illness or death, and other essential workers. In Phases 2 to 3, as vaccine supply increases, California will continue its efforts to improve health equity. All vaccine allocation decisions will be data-driven with an emphasis on equity and on protecting California's critical and vulnerable populations.

Section 4: Critical Populations

One of California's key policy goals is to determine critical populations for vaccination, including identifying groups to receive the first available vaccine doses. To that end, California has established an Allocation Data Team devoted to identifying, estimating, and locating critical populations. This team is analyzing dozens of data sets to provide comprehensive pictures of critical infrastructure populations. Additionally, California is identifying populations and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and has developed a [health equity metric](#) to help guide continuing efforts to address disparities.

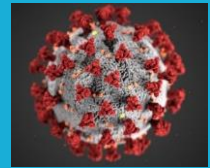
Section 5: COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

Vaccine provider recruitment and enrollment will be conducted primarily by our local health departments, based on their existing partnerships with the provider community. Following CDC and CDPH guidance and using provider data provided by CDPH, local health departments will pre-screen potential providers. Eligible providers will then be invited to enroll in the State's new COVID-19 Provider Enrollment and Ordering Management System, currently under development. Key provider enrollment functions, including automatic credential verification, acceptance of the *CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement*, and acknowledgement of training completion, will be managed within this system. Once successfully enrolled, providers will be eligible to receive vaccine allocations.

Section 8: COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

CDPH and local health departments will work together to ensure adherence to vaccine storage and handling requirements, including cold and ultracold chain requirements. This effort will begin during provider enrollment with an assessment of a provider's storage and handling capabilities. If providers do not have the required capabilities, they will not be eligible to receive the vaccine. California has recently surveyed local health departments and learned that capacity for ultra-low temperature storage is limited. In response, CDPH and Cal OES are developing ways to assist locals with vaccine warehousing, cold storage, and transportation. In the event that vaccine administration sites, local health departments, and distribution centers cannot store or handle the vaccine as planned, California state agencies can assist with these functions. Lastly, CDPH will handle all reports of vaccine mismanagement and temperature excursions, as well as all redistribution requests.

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Section 10: COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders

In addition to our planned public communication campaign, CDPH is also establishing systems to remind recipients when 2nd doses are due. We will deploy redundant processes to reach individuals in need of a 2nd dose, including vaccination kit reminder cards, PrepMod or other Vaccination Administration Management systems, or the IZ Gateway Access application. Dozens of existing vaccines currently require multiple doses and California's providers have a strong track record of effectively reminding individuals to receive them.

Section 12: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

California's communication plan is designed so that all people residing in California have access to timely, accurate, and actionable information about COVID-19 vaccination. Our communication plan aligns with the vaccine distribution timeline and will be implemented throughout all the phases. The plan includes public and stakeholder engagement with a focus on tailoring messages to key populations and vulnerable communities to ensure maximum vaccine acceptance. The state's public information campaign will be delivered across all channels and will be tailored to individual audiences. Additionally, internal communications for the public health workforce and clinicians will be integral to our overall messaging. Lastly, our plan includes an expedited process to issue urgent public health communications through a rapid response crisis communication hub.

Section 14: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

Vaccine safety monitoring is a critical aspect of California's COVID-19 vaccination effort. During the provider enrollment process, providers must agree to key terms and conditions, including the requirement to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Before receiving any vaccines, providers must agree to these terms and receive training on the use of VAERS. Furthermore, CDPH will continue to build on its longstanding practice of directing immunizers in California to VAERS to ensure ongoing safety monitoring. Throughout its COVID-19 immunization response, California will continue to provide information about and refer providers to VAERS.

Section 15: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring

Regular progress monitoring is critical to the success of the vaccination program. CDPH has established a robust chain-of-command infrastructure to ensure that timely information-sharing and problem resolution processes are in place. Any problems will be quickly escalated to executive leadership to be evaluated and resolved. Dedicated project managers will be assigned to monitor progress across all aspects of the implementation. California is currently identifying required metrics, standards, and reports. The Governor's Vaccine Task Force will address areas that fall short of expected metrics and develop and implement resolutions. Lastly, state and local staffing, budget, and resource levels will be closely monitored.