

COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Plan EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Providing a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to all Hoosiers is a critical component of the State of Indiana's strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths through appropriate allocation and administration of COVID-19 vaccine to all Hoosiers in a safe, timely and effective manner. The following document serves as an interim draft plan for the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), local public health programs, and public health partners on how to plan and operationalize a vaccination response to COVID-19 within Indiana.

Indiana has established multi-agency cross-disciplinary advisory groups to enhance the development of plans, activity reach, and risk/crisis response messaging and delivery:

Vaccine Allocation Plan Development Advisory Group: Provided final recommendations on the ethical and equitable allocation of a limited COVID-19 vaccine. This group remains available to assemble as adjustments to the plan are needed based on the final allocation total and the safety and efficacy of the vaccine(s).

Ethical Considerations Advisory Group: Reviewed existing documents and assisted in writing and reviewing ethical approaches to vaccine allocation. This group founded their recommendations with the goals to decrease overall mortality, mitigate spread, steward scarce resources responsibly, ensure feasibility of implementation, reinforce and support health care infrastructure necessary to treatment of disease, protect vulnerable populations, and promote fairness.

Vaccine Review Advisory Group: This group will investigate available information on each COVID-19 vaccine and will specifically review the safety profile and efficacy of each population of interest (those at clinical risk and demographic factors).

Equitable Distribution and Communication Advisory Group: Worked to ensure that all Hoosiers were considered and represented as a component of the vaccine allocation plan. Advised on key components of communication.

Data Advisory Group: Explored creative data resources and compiled Indiana-specific data for critical populations.

Vaccination Program Implementation Committee: External committee facilitated by the Indiana Department of Health's (IDOH) State Health Commissioner with representation from state and local government organizations, private sectors, tribes, healthcare, education, and critical infrastructure.

For Phase 1, Indiana will reinforce and support the healthcare workforce and those who are at the most risk of morbidity and mortality. In the scenario that Indiana does not receive sufficient vaccine to vaccinate all included in the population of focus, the IDOH has developed a per-county percentage-based metric to ensure equitable and equal distribution across Indiana.

Phase 1-A: Guiding objective: Reinforce and support healthcare infrastructure & treatment of disease.

- This group includes all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious material.
- Healthcare settings include, but are not limited to: hospitals, long-term care facilities, outpatient facilities, home health care settings, pharmacies, dialysis centers, emergency medical services, frontline public health interventions, and COVID-19 diagnostic and immunization teams.

Phase 1-B: Guiding objective: Protect the vulnerable.

- Individuals who are at particular risk of morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19 disease based on the latest evidence-based criteria.

Phase 2: Guiding objective: Mitigate spread.

- Individuals who are at elevated risk of transmission of the disease because of working or living circumstances. This includes persons living in correctional facilities, group homes or shelters, and individuals whose in-person work is essential, required, and places them in settings where social distancing is not possible and transmission risk is high.

Phase 3: Guiding objective: General public vaccination.

Phase 1-A will utilize hospitals that are prepared to administer vaccine to all healthcare personnel. Indiana hospitals were surveyed regarding their readiness to provide vaccine to healthcare personnel, including those not associated with their facility. Phases 1-B and 2 will expand to utilize local health departments (LHDs) and partnerships with commercial pharmacies. IDOH has provided a COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Template to the 94 LHDs and will review each of the plans prior to vaccine delivery to ensure adequate and appropriate vaccination efforts are addressed locally. The continuous quality improvement at the local level ensures state and local readiness of dispensing of mass prophylaxis, including vaccines, to Hoosiers across the state.

IDOH will further augment the local response by deployment of vaccination strike teams embedded in our 10 district mobile response units throughout the State to administer vaccine to those who are not covered by traditional vaccine providers and/or local public health efforts. Indiana is also piloting a vaccination partnership with our EMS and paramedicine providers and plans to incorporate them in COVID-19 vaccination in communities statewide. The Indiana National Guard, an important part of our testing program, will also be engaged with our phase 2 and 3 mass immunization plan.

To facilitate early vaccination efforts and to ensure proper provider coverage statewide, the IDOH has developed a web-based/on-line COVID-19 Provider Enrollment form capturing all required datasets as included in the "CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement". This web-based system will be used to collect required data that will be transmitted electronically to federal systems, therefore enrolling Indiana providers as COVID-19 Vaccine Providers. The IDOH will use Tiberius as a visualization tool for allocations, vaccine administration data monitoring, and transparency.

Currently, 743 providers enrolled in the Indiana Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program are actively vaccinating and recording vaccination administration data in the Children and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP), Indiana's immunization information system. There are 1,923 other facilities that have established a bi-directional interface with CHIRP. IDOH is working with a third-party registration vendor to identify a registration platform that will link to CHIRP. Registered COVID-19 vaccination providers will order COVID-19 vaccine through CHIRP. IDOH will utilize existing procedures routinely used for ordering publicly funded vaccines.

A robust and nimble communication plan will be the foundation of successful COVID-19 vaccine administration and uptake. The focus must be on ensuring consumer trust by providing information that is timely, accurate and appropriate. Messages will be crafted specifically to each audience and distributed through the most effective channels to achieve the maximum response.