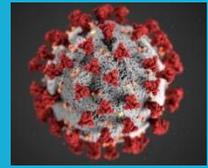


# OHIO INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



## Executive Summary

October 26, 2020

### Introduction

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Ohio has led an aggressive response to the virus focusing on education, prevention, testing, tracing, and treatment. Ohio's work early in the pandemic focused on: flattening the curve across the state, supporting the healthcare response, addressing the unique needs of congregate settings, establishing a comprehensive PPE procurement plan, and creating a data infrastructure to help inform decisions and ensure public transparency. The state acted quickly and decisively to control the spread of the virus and responsibly reopen. The COVID-19 vaccine is the next step in our fight against COVID-19, and Ohio is preparing rapidly for deployment. As we prepare for the approval and delivery of a vaccine, the state's key priorities remain to limit the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. Ohio submitted our plan for vaccine distribution to the CDC on 10/16/2020. This plan is a framework of how decisions will be made when we know more about the vaccine and will provide us a way forward in the next chapter of the pandemic.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Sections:

#### Section 3: Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Ohio is preparing for three phases of COVID-19 vaccination distribution: 1) when the vaccine supply is limited, and vaccines need provided to individuals at highest risk, 2) when the vaccine supply increases and efforts need to scale to reach many people, and 3) when the supply and demand for vaccination stabilize into routine follow-ups or for individuals who choose to be vaccinated. The State of Ohio has structured the work in these three phases by maintaining team structure, responsibilities, roles, and actions while expanding the scope of infrastructure readiness required in each phase. In particular, Ohio is focused on swift administration during the first phase to identified high-risk populations. However, the state is also preparing its infrastructure to smooth the transition to a higher volume of vaccine administration required in phase two.

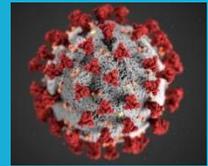
#### Section 4: Critical Populations

Ohio has thoughtfully approached the topic of critical populations and leveraged guidance provided by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and advice from Ohio leaders such as clinical leaders and the Ohio Department of Health's, Bureau of Infectious Diseases. In keeping with this advice, Ohio plans to offer vaccines first to high-risk healthcare workers, first responders, older adults in congregate settings, people at significantly higher risk due to comorbid or underlying conditions.

#### Section 5: COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

Provider recruitment and enrollment to administer the vaccine is one of the most critical activities to facilitate a successful vaccination campaign. Ohio is establishing a network of enrolled and equipped providers to administer the vaccine. Ohio launched a registration tool open to all providers, e.g., local health districts, hospitals, pharmacies, and nursing facilities, to register their interest in becoming a COVID-19 vaccine administrator. Ohio will provide access to training and support to all enrolled providers, who choose to administer the vaccine.

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## Section 8: COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

All participating providers will be trained on COVID-19 storage and handling specifics and expected to adhere to cold-chain requirements and protocols. Providers storing and handling vaccines will be required to follow CDC guidelines in receiving, repacking, and monitoring vaccines' temperature. Ohio may redistribute vaccines from a central warehouse to improve vaccine availability to all Ohioans. Possible redistribution by the state will follow all storage, handling, and cold-chain requirements.

## Section 10: COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders

Ohio is exploring several methods of notifying vaccine recipients of the need for second doses, in addition to the CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccination report cards. Options under exploration include: public communications emphasizing the importance of second-doses, direct outreach from the state (e.g., postcards, text messages), and provider-site led calls/messages to schedule and remind recipients about second doses.

## Section 12: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

Once the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines are confirmed, the Governor's Office and the Ohio Department of Health will prepare and launch a vaccine message delivery campaign to understand the public's concerns and address questions. Stakeholders will be identified to support in development and delivery of messages.

## Section 14: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

All vaccine administrators will be required to report clinical adverse events following vaccination. Providers will be required to submit to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and confirm each provider has signed the necessary contracts demonstrating acceptance of responsibilities. While most providers are aware of this process, each provider will be re-trained to ensure accurate and real-time vaccine safety monitoring.

## Section 15: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring

Ohio plans to track and monitor the progress and standing of the state's COVID-19 Vaccination Program across all workstreams using common metrics, allowing leadership to track progress.

Communications monitoring will be led by the Governor's Office and involve tracking messaging delivery and efficacy to address the public's concerns.

Local-level situational awareness will also be put in place and conducted in two ways: 1) regular, local-level touchpoints with local health department leadership and relevant regional stakeholders, and 2) sharing local data contacting key metrics

## Additional Information

Ohio has instituted an interagency team to collaborate on COVID-19 response efforts and vaccine preparedness. Ohio is working in coordination with key stakeholders, local partners, and advisors to ensure a plan that is efficient and reaches all Ohioans with an opportunity to receive the vaccine as soon as possible. There are still many unanswered questions related to the vaccine, including timing, supply available, exact product specifications (e.g., cold-chain requirements), and efficacy level. Ohio is regularly in touch with CDC/Operation Warp Speed. The Governor's office communications team will lead the communications and outreach effort for the vaccination program.