



# Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

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## City of Chicago COVID-19 Vaccination Strategic Plan Executive Summary

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DRAFT**

## Introduction

The City of Chicago is developing a COVID-19 Vaccination Program to coordinate the safe and effective administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine. The COVID-19 Vaccination Program is a critical component of the City's strategy to reduce COVID-19 related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. A practical and equitable COVID-19 Vaccine campaign is essential to helping Chicago beat the worst aspects of this pandemic. The COVID-19 Vaccination Program provides multiple organizations with a shared understanding required to allocate, distribute, and administer the COVID-19 Vaccine.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Sections: Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine release of *A Framework for Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus* provides the foundation for the Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccine administration strategy. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations will ultimately update this strategy. The phased approach focuses on two essential considerations: vaccine availability and prioritized population groups. The CDC anticipates limited vaccine availability until the production of the vaccine can increase.

- Phase 1 vaccine administration is based on limited vaccine availability, necessitating the prioritization of population groups. Examples of Phase 1 population groups are high-risk health workers, first responders, people with a combination of comorbidity and underlying conditions placing them at high risk, and older adults living in congregate settings.
- In Phase 2, vaccine availability and distribution will increase enough to allow vaccination services to be provided to priority groups not covered in Phase 1. During Phase 2, an expanded network of vaccine providers (e.g. clinics, pharmacies, and public health sites) will serve the expansion of vaccine administration.
- In Phase 3, continued increases vaccine availability will allow for the expansion of vaccination to population groups not covered in Phase 1 and 2.
- Phase 4 is designed to provide vaccination to all living in the United States, not covered in Phases 1 through 3.

Phase 3 and 4 signifies a move to a familiar vaccination allocation and administration process. Ultimately, the level of distribution in each of these phases is dependent upon vaccine availability.

## Critical Populations

The CDC, National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, and ACIP are developing guidance to determine critical population groups for COVID-19 vaccine administration. When vaccination allocation is expected to be limited, the critical population groups determined for Phase 1 are a priority. The City of Chicago will carefully review and consider the CDC/National Academies/ACIP vaccination guidance; the City will develop a phased approach, based on CDC/National Academies/ACIP guidance, designed to meet Chicago's prioritized population groups. The prioritization of population groups is critically important during Phases 1-2 due to limited vaccine availability; the City will rapidly administer vaccination as it becomes available.

## COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

To receive and administer COVID-19 vaccine, vaccination provider facilities and organizations must enroll in the federal COVID-19 Vaccination Program. The City of Chicago has established strong partnerships with a wide range of vaccine providers to support vaccine administration to the public. The City is expanding the number of vaccination providers by an extensive recruitment effort based on provider capabilities, geographic location, and traditional clientele. The recruited vaccination provider is required to complete the COVID-19 Vaccination Program enrollment process. This enrollment process ensures the provider can effectively manage COVID-19 vaccine storage and handling, administration, and reporting requirements. The City is organizing provider recruitment and enrollment around Phases 1-4; for example, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies are ideal for supporting vaccine administration for Phase 1 prioritized population groups.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

The City of Chicago is working with Federal vaccine distributors, regional and local providers to understand and

implement vaccine storage and handling practices for COVID-19 vaccines. The City will adhere to FDA standards and CDC recommendations for vaccine handling and storage. The correct vaccine storage and handling practices are critical to minimize vaccine loss and maximize vaccine effectiveness. The City will work with providers before and during vaccine allocation, delivering education, training, guidance, and resources to ensure that providers follow appropriate vaccine storage and handling procedures. The possibility of multiple vaccines, some requiring ultra-cold storage and needing specific procedures, highlight the importance and complexity of vaccine storage and handling.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders**

Many of the current vaccines in development require two doses of the vaccine for adequate protection against COVID-19. For those vaccines requiring a second-dose, the City of Chicago is developing multiple and redundant methods to ensure people receiving an initial vaccination receive reminders of the importance of completing the two-dose vaccine series. The City will work with providers to provide a clear understanding of which vaccines require a second dose, and the importance of utilizing a reminder/recall system for patient notification. The second-dose reminder process will include digital and hard-copy reminders.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication**

The City of Chicago has been providing COVID-19 information to the public through various messaging platforms and processes. The City is working to integrate and expand the public and media communication to focus on the critical importance of the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available. Based on the challenges recognized during the 2009 H1N1 vaccine campaign, seasonal influenza vaccination, and a mistrust of vaccinations in-general, the City acknowledges people's concerns. Program messaging will be tailored for key audiences (e.g. healthcare providers, community partner/stakeholders, and members of the general public); and will cover various topics such as vaccine importance, efficacy, safety, and an explanation vaccine prioritization through the phased approach to vaccination.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring**

The City of Chicago will work with the CDC, State of Illinois, and providers to track adverse events related to COVID-19 vaccine administration, as required for all vaccines using the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). CDC continuously monitors the safety of vaccines given to children and adults in the United States. Per the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement, COVID-19 vaccination providers must report adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination and report clinically critical adverse events even if they are not sure if the vaccination caused the event. The State of Illinois and the City of Chicago will work with the CDC to provide providers and the public with information concerning any significant adverse event and appropriate follow-on actions. The City is including CDC guidance on adverse event reporting to providers through education and training and the people through public and media communication.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring**

The City is developing a vaccination program to ensure vaccine allocation and administration are well-coordinated, effective, and equitable. The City's vaccination program will collect, organize, and analyze data to understand provider capabilities, critical populations, vaccine allocation and distribution, and vaccine administration. The vaccination program's primary objective is to enable the safe, effective, and equitable vaccine administration during Phases 1 through 4, focusing on the priority population groups in Phases 1 and 2. The City's vaccination program is currently working on preparing City and provider organizations for vaccination administration through outreach, education, training, and coordination. Once vaccine allocation begins, the City's vaccination program will be the coordination point for all vaccination and aligned efforts in the City of Chicago.

### **Additional Information**

- Coronavirus Response Center Website: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home.html>
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/a-framework-for-equitable-allocation-of-vaccine-for-the-novel-coronavirus>