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Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Providers Workgroup

Conference Call February 3, 2021

OPA Representatives Don Bennett and Kathy Nameth

Lance Himes, ODH Senior Director provided an update on the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccines. Highlights of his presentation include

1. Ohio is second in the nation at vaccinating those in nursing homes. Also, including Long Term Care Centers and outpatients, 50% of those 80 years and older have been vaccinated. Still not all residents and staff in LTC facilities have opted for the vaccine. A total of 77,000 doses are being reallocated to eligible age groups. These doses will stay with the two federally designated chains CVS and Walgreens.
2. **Phase 1B** continues.
  - a. For week of February 1 Ohioans 70 years of age and older
  - b. Employees of K-12 schools that wish to remain or return to in-person or hybrid models. This is being rolled out over the next 4 weeks by counties.
  - c. Working with local boards of developmental disabilities, providers are to vaccinate those with a developmental or intellectual disability **AND** one of the following conditions: cerebral palsy; spina bifida; severe congenital heart disease requiring hospitalization within the past year; severe type 1 diabetes requiring hospitalization within the past year; inherited metabolic disorders including phenylketonuria; severe neurological disorders including epilepsy, hydrocephaly, and microcephaly; severe genetic disorders including Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Turner syndrome, and muscular dystrophy; severe lung disease, including asthma requiring hospitalization within the past year, and cystic fibrosis; sickle cell anemia; and alpha and beta thalassemia; and solid organ transplant patients.
  - d. Feb. 8, 2021 – Ohioans 65 years of age and older and continuation of K-12 faculty and staff. Of the deaths in Ohio, 87% have occurred in those 65 years and older.
  - e. Starting February 8, there will be a focus on getting vaccine to affordable senior housing units in underserved areas. ODH will work with local vaccination providers to offer assistance through on-site clinics. These clinics will help ease the burden for many seniors having trouble navigating the registration

process and arranging transportation.

3. Hospitals have been directed to stop administering **first** doses to 1A group and focus on to 1B. Local Health Departments can continue to vaccinate 1A health care workers.
4. The state continues to receive about 150,000 doses per week. They are projecting a slight 5% increase in allocations beginning next week. Of these, 58,000 doses are being allocated to K-12 faculty and staff.
5. Because of handling and storage requirements, 100 is the minimum of doses shipped per site. Providers should not hold back vaccine doses for second doses. **Second doses will be shipped to providers closer to the time of the scheduled doses. Sites will receive an email several days before the second doses are shipped.** All vaccine must be administered the week it is received. Some form of identification with a date of birth should be used to verify eligibility based upon age. All vaccinations should be entered into ImpactSIS within 24 hours.
6. Governor DeWine has stated that Ohio will not be moving to mega sites like New York Yankee stadium or Los Angeles Dodger stadium but will focus on our provider network. Each county will receive some doses each week. A focus should be made to get vaccine to underserved populations.
7. Enrolled providers are now up to over 2600 with 1233 pharmacies, 232 hospitals, and 110 health departments. **Enrollment is still open. Go to <https://ohid.ohio.gov> to enroll. You need to complete the training modules on the website. The website is updated regularly, so check frequently. There is a comprehensive checklist on the website to assist with your preparation to be able to administer the vaccines.**
8. Ohio is purchasing 2 million at home, Abbott Labs rapid COVID-19 tests. Telehealth is used to provide results in minutes via a free mobile app without requiring that samples to be sent to a lab.
9. The state launched an online search tool on Jan. 15 that shows providers throughout Ohio who have received shipments of COVID-19 vaccines for those currently being vaccinated in Phase 1B. As more vaccine providers receive shipments, they will be added to this page. Searchable by county or ZIP code. **[vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov)**. This site has general and specific information for providers and the public and is updated regularly.
10. ODH continues to work on a statewide scheduling system that hopefully will be available within the next two weeks.
11. ODH will be holding virtual town halls starting February 22 for education with a focus on overcoming vaccine hesitancy.