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2674 Federated Blvd., Columbus, OH 43235 • Phone: (614) 389-3236 • Fax: (614) 389-4582

## Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Providers Workgroup

Conference Call February 17, 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. Phase 1B continues; however, starting February 15 additional an additional group was added. Ohioans born with or who have early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood, which put them at a higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19, are now eligible for vaccination under Ohio's Vaccination Program Phase 1B.
  - a. Starting January 25 vaccinations were available for individuals who have a developmental or intellectual disability AND one of the conditions listed below. Beginning February 15, eligibility was expanded to any individuals with one of the conditions below:
    - Sickle cell anemia.
    - Down syndrome.
    - Cystic fibrosis.
    - Muscular dystrophy.
    - Cerebral palsy.
    - Spina bifida.
    - People born with severe heart defects, requiring regular specialized medical care.
    - People with severe type 1 diabetes, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
    - Phenylketonuria (PKU), Tay-Sachs, and other rare, inherited metabolic disorders.
    - Epilepsy with continuing seizures; hydrocephaly; microcephaly, and other severe neurological disorders.
    - Turner syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other severe genetic disorders.
    - People with severe asthma, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
    - Alpha and beta thalassemia.
    - Solid organ transplant candidates and recipients.

Only those individuals in this population that work with their local developmental disabilities board will be eligible for vaccination at this time. The vaccinations for Ohioans in this category will only be given at Local Health Departments or participating Children's Hospitals in conjunction with the local boards of developmental disabilities.

Ohioans in this category should not go to their local pharmacies for scheduling or vaccination.

- b. **Phase 1B** continues with the eligibility of those 65 years and older that started February 5 and the continued rollout for employees of K-12 schools that wish to remain or return to in-person or hybrid models. This is being rolled out over the 4 weeks by counties. So

far, vaccine uptake by school employees has been very good.

- C. Starting February 8, there was 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.
2. Hospitals are continuing to receive vaccine so they can vaccinate 1B individuals. They are being asked to look at their recent hospitalization records to identify individuals by age and condition to be prioritized for vaccination.
3. The Federal Retail Pharmacy direct distribution includes 160 Rite Aid pharmacies and 194 Kroger pharmacies in Ohio. The allocation is based on a per capita basis. This is an incremental rollout dependent upon vaccine supplies. The state allocations will be distributed to providers not included in the Federal Retail Pharmacy program.
4. Johnson and Johnson's vaccine data has been submitted to the FDA with a request seeking an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The ACIP is expected to begin a detailed review February 26. The FDA and CDC are expected to act within a few days of receiving the ACIP recommendation. This vaccine has the benefits of requiring only one dose and only requires regular refrigeration storage and not the ultra-cold freezer temperatures for Pfizer and Moderna.
5. The FDA has approved Pfizer's request to designate each one of their vials to now be counted as 6 doses instead of 5. The syringes and needles they are providing with each shipment should facilitate obtaining the 6 doses from each vial.
6. Providers are reminded that they 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 ImpactSIIS within 24 hours.
7. Enrolled providers are now up to over 2800 with 1273 pharmacies, 232 hospitals, 110 health departments, and 473 medical practices. **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. ODH continues to work on a statewide scheduling system. The system is called Vaccine Management Solution (VMS) and will be available at

gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov. It is intended to be a one-stop shop for patients beginning the vaccination process to determine eligibility, schedule appointments, submit health information, and receive updates and reminders. ODH will be working with vaccine providers to integrate their current scheduling systems into the new statewide system.

9. ODH has schedule COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls aimed at increasing vaccine confidence and overcoming vaccine hesitancy. Medical experts and community leaders will coordinate four town halls aimed at specific populations starting February 22, 2021.

- February 22 6:30 pm African American Ohioans
- February 23 6:30 pm Hispanic/Latino Ohioans
- March 1 6:30 pm Asian American and Pacific Islander Ohioans
- March 2 6:30 pm Rural Ohioans

Live and on-demand events will be available on Facebook, YouTube, and online at [coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall). Recordings will also be shown later on the Ohio Channel (PBS station or other television provider).