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Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Providers Workgroup

Conference Call December 9, 2020

OPA Representatives Don Bennett and Kathy Nameth

This was the first conference in what will be a regular weekly occurrence. More than 70 participants were on this first call. Cameron McNamee and Jenni Wai from the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy were on the call.

Lance Himes from ODH provided an overview of what we know about the COVID-19 vaccine roll out pending FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) actions. Both groups are meeting this week. Highlights of his presentation include

1. As of December 4, over 650 providers are enrolled including over 200 pharmacies. **Enrollment is still open. Go to <https://ohid.ohio.gov> to enroll. You need to complete the training modules on the website. The website was updated December 4, 2020. There is a comprehensive checklist on the website to assist with your preparation to be able to administer the vaccines. ODH confirmed that you do not need to have a freezer that can maintain the extremely low temperatures for vaccine storage. You also need to sign up for the state immunization registry, ImpactSIS if you are not already enrolled.**
2. The first priority group “1a” includes high risk health care employees and residents of LTC and congregate living situations. Of note, an estimated 1.3 million Ohioans fall into 1a group; persons in subsequent groups are still being determined.
3. With FDA EUA approval, the first doses of Pfizer’s vaccine could be shipped around December 15th.
 - a. 9,750 doses will be split among 10 “pre-positioned” hospitals around the state. These 975 doses per hospital are intended for their high risk front line employees.
 - b. An additional 88,725 doses will be shipped to CVS, Walgreens, Absolute, and PharmScripts for administration to LTC residents and staff. **This is mandated by a federal contract. If your pharmacy serves a LTC facility, check with them to see if they have been contacted by one of these 4 providers to coordinate vaccine administration. If they have not been contacted, the LTC facility should contact the Ohio Department of Health (833-427-5634).**
4. Assuming the FDA issues an EUA approval for the Moderna vaccine, an estimated 201,000 doses will be distributed to 98 hospitals and 108 health departments around December 22. Also around December 22, an additional 123,000 Pfizer vaccine doses will be distributed to the four federally designated pharmacies for use in LTC and other congregate living facilities.
5. Providers will be encouraged to report vaccine related adverse reactions to the national VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System). Patients will be encouraged, but not required, to use the V-SAFE mobile application. V-SAFE is a new CDC smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. V-SAFE will use text messaging and web surveys from CDC to check in with vaccine recipients for health problems following COVID-19 vaccination. The system also will provide telephone follow up to anyone who reports medically significant (important) adverse events.
6. During Q&A, it was clarified that providers who receive the first shipment of vaccine do not need to hold back half of the allocation to use for second doses; the federal allocation accounts for that and second doses will come later.