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Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Providers Workgroup

Conference Call December 23, 2020

OPA Representatives Don Bennett and Kathy Nameth

This was the third conference call in what will be a regular weekly occurrence.

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

1. The LTC vaccination process is off to a good start overall. **Those LTC facilities that did not sign up for the Federal program should contact their local health departments to coordinate vaccinations. The second phase will include assisted living facilities and other congregate living communities. The Pfizer vaccine is being used for all of these sites.**
2. An additional 89,700 Pfizer doses are expected next week which is 19,500 more than originally expected. An additional 69,700 doses of Moderna's vaccine are expected next week for hospitals and local health departments. Not all local health departments received vaccine this week.
3. **It was emphasized that it is okay to use additional complete 0.3 ml doses obtained from the Pfizer vials. This can result in 6 or even 7 doses per vial. Pfizer states to not pool doses from multiple vials. Pfizer has also confirmed that they do not plan on changing their manufacturing processes so the vial overfill volumes will continue.**
4. The coronavirus vaccine administration dashboard has been launched at the website coronavirus.ohio.gov. The expectation is that administered doses will be posted within 24 hours. Initially there have been some minor struggles with this. The dashboard will track vaccinations started, vaccinations completed including by county and include other demographics.
5. ODH has also compiled a communications toolkit. The Communications Toolkit has talking points, language tips, graphics, FAQs, myths vs. facts, social media language, and trusted resources to help you better communicate about the COVID-19 vaccination. This initial toolkit will be expanded with additional resources over time. The toolkit is available at <http://bit.ly/OHVaccineToolkit>.
6. Currently there are over 11,000 providers enrolled including 357 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 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. ODH confirmed that you do not need to have a freezer that can maintain the extremely low temperatures for vaccine storage. If you completed the registration and have not heard back after one week, contact ODH. You also need to sign up for the state immunization registry, ImpactSIIS if you are not already enrolled.**
7. During the Q&A session, it was clarified that "vaccinate the vaccinators" is a priority group. Pharmacists going to LTC facilities to vaccinate residents should themselves also be vaccinated. The 1A group includes health care workers who routinely care for COVID positive patients. Other health care providers will be vaccinated next when supplies are adequate including pharmacists, primary care providers, employees of FQHC facilities, and others. This is anticipated to occur in January. These vaccines are expected to be distributed through local health departments.