

# OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

## PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **Vaccine eligibility to expand to 16 and older** – [Phase 2D, effective March 29](#), extends vaccine eligibility to Ohioans ages 16 and older.
  - With parental or legal guardian consent, individuals ages 16 and 17 will be eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine, which is the only COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized for use with people under age 18.
  - If providers have appointments left to fill before March 29 and vaccine could be at risk of going to waste, that vaccine should be given to anyone who meets the product age requirements (Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, 18 and older | Pfizer, 16 and older).
- **Vaccine Management Solution scheduling** - Providers are required to either report vaccinations completed via the [Vaccine Management Solution \(VMS\) scheduling website](#) or an electronic health record (EHR) that interfaces with the state's VMS system. The state anticipates this will enhance the customer-service experience for Ohioans, reduce data lags, and provide real-time information on vaccination progress at the state and county level.
  - The remaining VMS 411 information sessions for this week and next week have been canceled. We will continue to provide individual support and answer questions about VMS through our Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov.
  - To receive an account activation link, providers receiving allocations must first log in to their OHID account to complete the [Vaccine Provider Locations form](#). [Step-by-step instructions](#) for adding or updating information are available on the [VMS training page](#).
  - Vaccine providers who are receiving allocations and have completed the form but have not received an invitation to join VMS are asked to call the ODH Provider Call Center.
  - [VMS training resources are available on the COVID-19 Vaccine Providers page](#).
- **Mass vaccination sites** - Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center mass vaccination site is offering up to 6,000 doses of vaccine per day, 7 days per week. First doses of the Pfizer vaccine are available through April 5. Second doses of the Pfizer vaccine will be available for those vaccinated during the first three weeks from April 6-26. The single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available from April 27-May 10.
  - Regional mass vaccination clinics will operate in Akron, Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Lima, Marietta, Maumee, Wilmington, Youngstown, and Zanesville beginning the week of March 29.
  - **Columbus** and **Cincinnati** pop-up clinics will be held April 8-11 at St. John Arena at Ohio State University and April 8-10 at the Cintas Center at Xavier University.
  - Mobile clinics will distribute vaccine in four regions: northwest/west-central Ohio, southeast Ohio, north-central Ohio, and east-central Ohio.
- **Nursing home visitation policies updated** – ODH has updated orders related to assisted living facilities and nursing homes. The general visitation requirements will remain the same, including the requirement that visitors schedule appointments in advance, are screened at the door, and wear masks. Changes to the orders include:
  - Ohio is requiring that visitation be permitted whenever safety protocols can be met. Previously, visitation was permitted, not required.
  - Vaccinated residents may have physical touch with their visitor while wearing a mask.
  - Visits may occur in a resident's private room, as opposed to the previous requirement of a separate visitation area.
  - 30 minutes should serve as the minimum amount of time for a visit. Previously, 30 minutes was the maximum time to visit.
  - The order expands the circumstances in which compassionate care visits should be granted.
- In addition, the order updates nursing home and assisted living testing requirements to require the facilities to test vaccinated staff once per week and unvaccinated staff twice per week. The previous order made no distinction between vaccinated or unvaccinated staff.

## RESOURCES

### HOW TO ENROLL

[Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information](#)

### PROVIDER RESOURCES

[Vaccine Provider Resources Page](#)

[Phase 1C guidance](#)

[Phase 1D guidance](#)

[Phase 1E guidance](#)

[Phase 2A guidance](#)

[Phase 2B guidance](#)

[Phase 2C guidance](#)

[Phase 2D guidance](#)

### RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

[coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine)

[Vaccine eligibility by category](#)

[Priority Populations Distribution Fact Sheet](#)

[Myths vs. Facts](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines FAQ](#)

[Safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines](#)

[Trust the facts graphics](#)

[Understanding how the different vaccines work](#)

[Preparing for your COVID-19 vaccination](#)

[Acceptable forms of ID](#)

[Communications Resources Hub](#)

## TALKING POINTS

The most trusted voices when it comes to information about COVID-19 are an individual's personal physician, medical experts, and emergency room doctors, followed by public health officials. These talking points are designed to help you communicate the most current information.

- All available COVID-19 vaccines have been proven safe and effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated with the first vaccine available to you can help protect you.
- In the early stages of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, doses are available in limited supply for specific critical populations. As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated.
- Some vaccines, including the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, require two doses taken a few weeks apart. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, is a single-dose vaccine, meaning you only need one shot.
- Side effects are mild, and are normal signs that your body is building protection. Similar to side effects from other vaccines, like a flu shot, they should go away in a few days. Some people have reported experiencing soreness or redness at the site of the injection, body aches, headaches, or fever, lasting for a day or two. Severe reactions, or anaphylaxes, are rare. If you have allergies — especially severe ones that include allergies to other vaccines or ingredients in the vaccines — discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with your doctor, who can assess your risk and provide more information about if and how you can get vaccinated safely. Ohio, CDC and FDA are monitoring the distribution and any negative reactions to the vaccine.
- Vaccines are available at locations across the state, including hospitals, local health departments, federally qualified health centers, and pharmacies. Find out if you are currently eligible, locate a provider, and book an appointment near you at [gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov). In addition, a list of providers statewide is available online at [vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov).
- The COVID-19 vaccine development process included several steps comparable with those used to develop earlier vaccines, such as the flu or chickenpox vaccine. The FDA and independent medical experts have ensured that every detail of these vaccines is thoroughly and rigorously evaluated.
- Using all the tools available to help prevent the spread of the virus continues to be critical until a substantial number of Ohioans can be vaccinated. Continuing to wear masks and social distance will reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus. Proper prevention measures — like wearing a mask, washing your hands, and practicing social distancing — coupled with the vaccine, will provide the best protection from COVID-19.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POST IDEAS

- Until a substantial number of Ohioans can be vaccinated, proper prevention, like wearing masks & social distancing, will reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus during the pandemic. <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine>
- What is the difference between the available COVID-19 vaccines, and how do they work? Learn more about the different vaccines and how they work <http://bit.ly/AboutVaccinesOhio>
- All the available #COVID19 vaccines have been proven safe and effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated with the first vaccine available to you can help protect you from COVID-19. Learn more <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine>
- Where can I get my COVID-19 vaccine? Check your eligibility, find appointments near you, and get scheduled at Ohio's one-stop Vaccine Management Solution (VMS). Learn more at <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov>. #GetTheShot
- When you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you can expect pain and soreness in the arm where you got the shot. Other common side effects are fever, chills, headache, and tiredness. These side effects are normal as your body creates an immune response to protect you from COVID-19, and may increase with the second dose. Learn more about what to expect in this video from the @CDC <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EILCpte7GSw>

## COVID-19 VACCINE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

This [toolkit](#) offers talking points, language tips, social media language and trusted resources to help you better communicate about the safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines.

## PFIZER RESOURCES

[Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Providers](#)

[Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Patients](#)

## MODERNA RESOURCES

[EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers](#)

[EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)

## JOHNSON & JOHNSON RESOURCES

[EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers](#)

[EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)

## CDC RESOURCES

[Vaccinate with Confidence](#)

[About V-Safe after vaccination health checker](#)

[Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Vaccine safety](#)

[Free printable resources](#)

[COVID-19 Toolkits](#)

[How to protect yourselves, others after you've been fully vaccinated](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Training Modules](#)