



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants
Date: January 8, 2020
From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #22: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update

Key Messages

- Two COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the United States (U.S.) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and have been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is working closely with counties to plan the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine. The County has convened a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group to provide additional local guidance, where applicable, and ensure equitable access to vaccines among affected populations.
- Due to limited vaccine supplies, allocation and distribution is taking place using a phased approach recommended by CDC/ACIP, with prioritization within each phase using a CDPH tier-based system.
- Healthcare personnel and residents and employees of long-term care facilities (LTCF) are prioritized to be vaccinated during Phase 1A.
- Facilities intending to administer COVID-19 vaccines must register in the State COVIDReadi system and monitor CDPH informational sources for updates. Prior to enrollment in COVIDReadi, facilities must be enrolled in the San Diego Immunization Registry (SDIR).
- Facilities unable to administer vaccine should fill out a notification form to ensure the County is aware and can offer vaccinations directly or through a partner.
- Healthcare providers play a critical role in educating patients about COVID-19 vaccines and helping them to understand the importance of vaccination and reinforcing the continued need for preventive measures such as mask-wearing, hand washing, and social distancing.

Situation

- Multiple COVID-19 vaccines are currently in clinical trials, and the U.S. FDA has granted EUA to the [Pfizer-BioNTech \(12/11/20\)](#) and [Moderna \(12/18/20\)](#) vaccines.
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued interim recommendations for the use of the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#) vaccines, and both vaccines are already being allocated and distributed by CDC to the region.
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is working closely with local health jurisdictions to plan the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine. The County of San Diego has convened a [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group](#), consisting of public health officials and community and clinical partners, to provide local guidance, where applicable, and to use a health equity lens to ensure equitable distribution of vaccine in the region.
- Due to limited initial vaccine supply, [a phased approach](#) to vaccine allocation will be taken. Phases were initially determined by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) in their [Framework for Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for Novel Coronavirus](#). ACIP modified NAS phases for allocation of COVID-19 vaccine that will be used to guide vaccine allocations in California and elsewhere.

- **Phase 1A** is the initial phase of the national vaccination program and includes [healthcare personnel](#) and residents of Long Term Care Facilities, based on [ACIP's Interim Recommendations for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine](#).
- CDPH formed a [Scientific Safety Review Workgroup](#) to assess the national recommendations and develop vaccine prioritization and allocation guidance for California. This workgroup presented a framework for tiered sub-prioritization within ACIP-recommended Phase 1A to better match the level of available supplies with demand. CDPH also has convened a [Drafting Guidelines Workgroup](#) that recommends tiers to the State's [Community Vaccine Advisory Committee](#). CDPH published [Allocation Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine During Phase 1A](#) that divide intended Phase 1A vaccine recipients into three tiers, each of which includes categories of persons to receive vaccine in ranked order. These include:
 - **Tier 1:**
 - Staff at acute care, psychiatric, and correctional facility hospitals
 - Staff and residents of skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
 - Paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and others providing emergency medical services
 - Staff at dialysis centers
 - Staff of residential substance use disorder (SUD) and behavioral health facilities
 - **Tier 2:**
 - Staff at intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
 - Staff of home health care and in-home support services
 - Community health workers, including promotoras
 - Public health field staff
 - Staff at primary care clinics, including federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics
 - Staff of outpatient SUD treatment and behavioral health facilities
 - **Tier 3:**
 - Staff at specialty clinics
 - Laboratory workers
 - Staff at dental and other oral health clinics
 - Pharmacy and other healthcare staff not working in settings at higher tiers
- **Phase 1B** Tier 1 includes persons aged 75 years and older and those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: education and childcare workers, food and agricultural workers, and emergency service workers (e.g., firefighters and police officers).
- **Phase 1B** Tier 2 includes persons aged 65-74 years, persons in congregate settings with outbreak risk: incarcerated and homeless, and those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: transportation and logistics; industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services; critical manufacturing.
- **Phase 1C** includes persons 50-64 years, persons 16-64 years with medical conditions that increase risk for severe COVID-19; and those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: water and wastewater; defense, energy; chemical and hazardous materials; communications and IT; financial services; government operations/community-based essential functions.
- **Phase 2** includes general population 16 years of age and older.

Actions Requested

- [Enroll to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider if able to meet requirements](#). Hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics interested in administering COVID-19 vaccine must be enrolled in the federal COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Vaccines and ancillary supplies will be procured and distributed by the federal government at no cost to enrolled, approved COVID-19 vaccination providers. CDPH coordinates enrollment for the region and as per CDPH and the [Department of Consumer Affairs](#), allocated vaccines must be administered consistent with the Phase and Tier structure.

- **Apply online through [COVIDReadi](#)**, CDPH’s registration and enrollment system.
- **If you are not already enrolled in the San Diego Immunization Registry (SDIR), e-mail SDIR.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov, or call the SDIR Help Desk at (619) 692-5656 for assistance.** Potential vaccination sites must be enrolled in SDIR.
- For questions about the enrollment process or to request technical assistance, e-mail COVIDVaxEnrollment.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov, or call (858) 569-3300.
- Providers should count eligible persons and doses in advance before thawing or removing from storage AND create standby lists of prioritized persons in the same Phase and preferably same or subsequent Tier when possible should there be unused doses.
- Providers who have extra doses should consult immediately with covidvaxinquiry.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov and provide as much advance notice regarding doses that may be expiring.
- **Submit a [NOTIFICATION FORM](#) if you are a healthcare facility unable to administer COVID–19 vaccination.** This form provides information to the County’s COVID–19 Vaccine Branch to be notified when vaccines become available to you.
- **Stay updated with the latest COVID-19 vaccine information** by regularly reviewing and monitoring educational resources available through CDC, CDPH, and the County of San Diego.
 - CDC/ACIP:
 - [COVID-19 Vaccination website](#)
 - [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA Vaccines Currently Authorized](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs and Reference Materials for Healthcare Professionals](#)
 - [ACIP COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)
 - CDPH:
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines website](#)
 - [California COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines Questions and Answers \(Q&A\)](#)
 - County of San Diego:
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine website](#)
 - [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- **Educate patients** regarding the importance of COVID-19 vaccination, including the rigorous evaluation and safety of the two COVID-19 vaccines that are currently approved for EUA, and the continued need for other preventive measures such as mask-wearing, hand washing, and social distancing. Resources that may be helpful for these discussions include:
 - [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Recipient Education website](#)
 - [CDC Understanding and Explaining mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
 - [CDC Making a Strong Recommendation for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
 - [CDC Answering Patients’ Questions](#)
 - [County of San Diego Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Health Professionals](#)

We are all in this together! To support the current statewide effort to vaccinate as many healthcare personnel, as quickly as possible, all Tiers of Phase 1A are open in January, following with Phase 1B. Thank you for your continued participation.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch

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