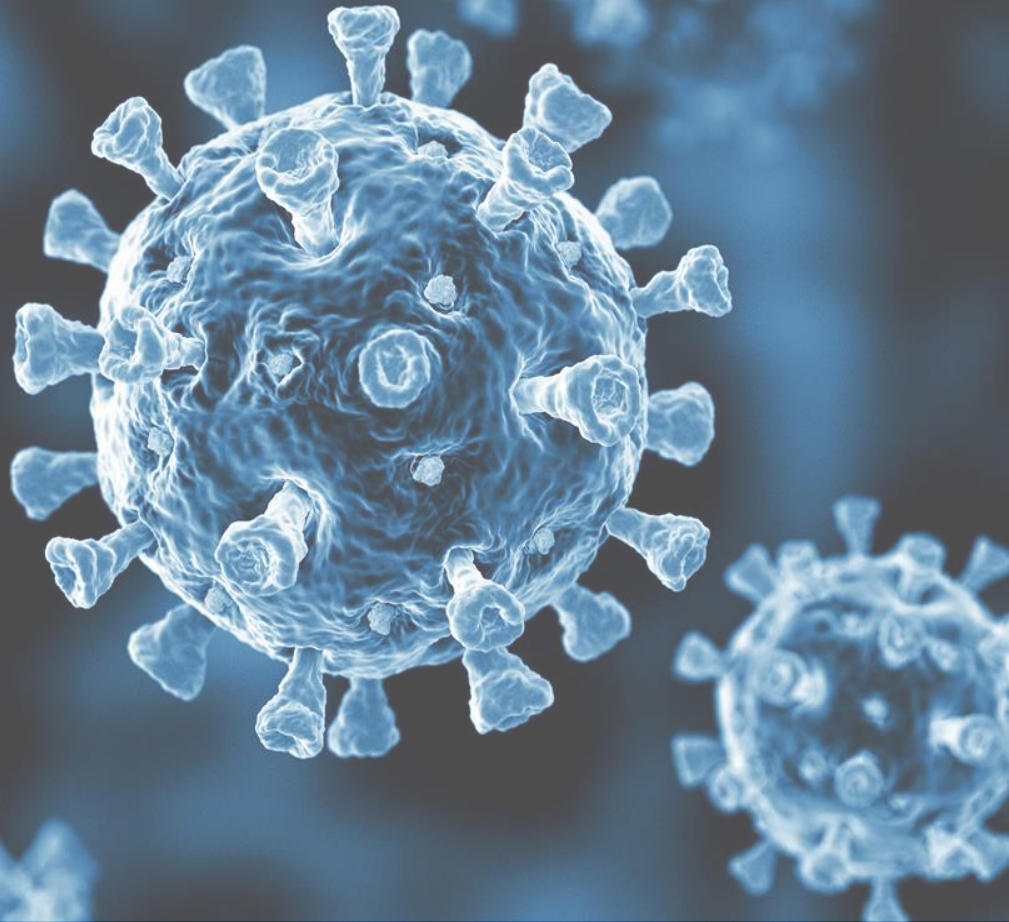


COVID-19 Vaccination Update



Federal Retail Pharmacy Program to help increase vaccine access

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program will soon begin allotting vaccine doses to more than 160 Rite Aid pharmacies in Ohio.

Vaccine distribution will also expand into all 194 Kroger pharmacies.

The program is a collaboration between the federal government and 21 national pharmacy partners and independent pharmacy networks.

The program aims to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine across the country and represents one component of the federal government's strategy to expand access to vaccines for the American public.

The program is rolling out incrementally based on the available supply of COVID-19 vaccine, with select retail pharmacy locations providing vaccine to individuals who are eligible based on their state's criteria/priority populations.

How the federal program will work

A limited number of retail pharmacies nationwide are receiving vaccine directly from the federal government to vaccinate priority groups at no cost.

- The program will begin with per capita allocations that will be divided among the selected pharmacy partners based on number of stores and reach.
- The vaccine allocation provided for this program is separate from the weekly allocation from the federal government to states. It is meant to enhance the current vaccination efforts in states.
- States will be able to see which federal retail pharmacies have vaccine and how much they have to ensure the program helps meet each state's vaccination goals.

The program will expand as vaccine supply increases to eventually include vaccination at all 40,000+ retail locations.

- This will make it easier for individuals to access vaccine at a local pharmacy from a trusted, trained, and familiar source.
- This will support the state and local health departments' ongoing efforts and help reach eligible priority populations.

Priority populations vaccine update

- ➔ Phase 1B medical condition eligibility guidelines.
- ➔ Vaccination process for Ohioans with qualifying medical conditions.
- ➔ How providers should confirm eligibility of Ohioans with medical conditions.
- ➔ Continued vaccine access for long-term care facilities.
- ➔ K-12 program vaccination update.

Ohio's Vaccination Program

Phase 1B

Ohioans born with or who have early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood, which put them at higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19.

The following group of Ohioans are included, even though they are not age 65 and older, because they were born with or developed in childhood a severe condition that puts them at very high risk for dying from COVID-19.

- 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.



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Department
of Health

coronavirus.ohio.gov

COVID-19

Feb. 17, 2021

5



Department
of Health

Vaccination process for Ohioans with qualifying medical conditions

This priority population includes an estimated 200,000 Ohioans.

Vaccination began this week for the final priority population group eligible for vaccination during Phase 1B.

Eligibility includes Ohioans born with certain medical conditions, or who have early childhood conditions that have carried into adulthood, which put them at a higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19.

These individuals will be permitted to be vaccinated by the enrolled vaccination provider of their choice who has vaccine.

How providers should confirm eligibility

Providers are asked to share the list of eligible conditions on their websites to help educate the public.

Ohioans who have one of the qualifying medical conditions can receive the vaccine from their provider of choice.

Hospital providers should proactively reach out to patients hospitalized in the past year for a qualifying condition to schedule the vaccination.

The State of Ohio is not requiring any additional documentation or proof of eligibility; however, providers may develop their own procedures to evaluate eligibility.

Before vaccination, providers are asked to confirm with patients, either verbally or using an online or paper form, that they have one of the conditions.

When submitting TP/O Checklist data, providers confirm that they have verified the eligibility of that patient through a review of electronic health records or by verbal confirmation.

Continued vaccine access for Long-Term Care Facilities

Governor DeWine announced last week that Ohio's maintenance COVID-19 vaccine program plan to ensure residents and staff within nursing homes and assisted living facilities have continuing access to vaccine is nearly complete.



The plan will outline how nursing homes and assisted living facilities will move forward to vaccinate new residents, new workers, and workers who initially declined the vaccine but are now willing to be vaccinated.



The plan will leverage existing relationships between nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the pharmacies that regularly provide them with prescription drugs.



More details are expected to be announced yet this week.

K-12 vaccination program updates



- First-dose vaccinations for Ohio's K-12 staff are ongoing throughout February on a staggered schedule.
- Second doses will be given at the appropriate intervals.

EARLY
JANUARY

- 47% of Ohio students were learning remotely.

TODAY

- Less than 15% of Ohio students are learning remotely.

Vaccination updates

- ➔ Johnson & Johnson seeks vaccine approval.
- ➔ Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine dosage update.
- ➔ New CDC guidance on vaccinating homebound individuals.
- ➔ New eligibility and scheduling tool coming soon for Ohioans.

Johnson & Johnson seeks vaccine approval

Vaccine is stored at standard refrigerator temperature.

Single-dose vaccine was up to 72% effective in clinical trials.

Feb. 4

Johnson & Johnson submitted paperwork requesting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorize its vaccine for emergency use for adults.

Feb. 26

An FDA panel will meet to discuss Johnson & Johnson's application. The FDA is expected to authorize the vaccine within a few days of that meeting, followed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation for use.

UPDATE: Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine dosage

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has officially updated the number of vaccine doses per vial from five to six.

Each Pfizer tray will still contain 195 vials of vaccine, but each vial will be counted as six doses now.

Pfizer vaccine directly shipped from the manufacturer will arrive in increments of 1,170 doses (previously 975).

Pfizer vaccine shipped from the Ohio Department of Health RSS Warehouse will arrive in increments of 120 doses (previously 100).

Pfizer has already updated its ancillary kits to include enough supplies for up to 1,170 doses.

New CDC guidance on vaccinating homebound individuals

Vaccination of homebound individuals presents unique challenges to ensure the appropriate vaccine storage temperatures, handling, and administration for safe and effective vaccination.

Previously, federal guidance has advised against transporting a partially used vaccine vial – posing a challenge after administering one dose from a multi-dose vial in a home-care setting.

On Feb. 11, CDC issued updated guidance on the storage, handling, transportation, and administration of vaccine to homebound individuals. Under the updated guidance, CDC says:

- A punctured vial may be transported from one home to another by the same healthcare professional if the cold chain is properly maintained.
- However, a partially used vial cannot be transferred from one provider to another or across state lines.

New eligibility and scheduling tool for Ohioans

Vaccines are our best defense against COVID-19, and it is imperative that we ensure all Ohioans have an opportunity to receive vaccine as it becomes available.

To help prevent scheduling challenges for both patients and providers, the Ohio Department of Health is offering a new vaccine management tool.

It is a one-stop shop for patients beginning the vaccination process to determine eligibility, schedule appointments, submit health information, and receive updates and reminders.

gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov

VMS: What providers should know

Ohio and approximately 40 other states chose not to use the centralized system that the federal government intended to develop. Instead, Ohio chose to build its own centralized scheduling system.

Despite the significant build time and configuration, the system was built within Ohio's intended timeframe.

This no-cost tool can assist providers with patient registration, scheduling, vaccine inventory, and clinic management.

ODH will work directly with current vaccine providers to integrate their current systems into the statewide system and assist them in working through current waitlists to potentially integrate existing commitments into the new system.

New vaccine providers will be expected to use this system as Ohio looks to the future, and guidance will be provided soon regarding the timeline for implementation.

Outside partners, including the Area Agencies on Aging, will be available to help Ohioans who do not have access to the internet with appointment scheduling.



Once most participating providers have signed up, the next phase will be to make the site live to those seeking to be vaccinated. Our goal is for Ohioans to have a positive customer experience when we launch the site to make appointments.



- Governor Mike DeWine

How stakeholders and community partners can support vaccine efforts

- ➔ Educate people about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.
- ➔ Help promote COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall virtual meetings.
- ➔ Partner with local enrolled vaccination providers to help identify at-risk populations.
- ➔ Help older Ohioans register for vaccine appointments.

Educate people about safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

Talking points.

Graphics and artwork.

Newsletter and website article language.

Social media posts.

Ohio Department of Health Vaccine Communications toolkit:

https://odh.ohio.gov/static/covid19/vaccine-providers/communications_toolkit.pdf





Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls

Medical experts, community leaders, and public health professionals will answer your COVID-19 vaccine questions.

- Monday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. - African American Ohioans
- Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. - Hispanic/Latino Ohioans
- Monday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. - Asian American and Pacific Islander Ohioans
- Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. - Rural Ohioans

How to watch:

Watch live or on-demand after the event:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/OHdeptofhealth/>
- YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/OhioDepartmentofHealth1>
- Online - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall>

Watch later on TV:

Watch later on the Ohio Channel. Find your local channel and the date and time it will air by checking with your PBS station or television provider.

Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall
Medical experts. Community leaders. Professionals.



Department of Health
Department of Mental Health and
Addiction Services

Partner with local vaccine providers.

Talk with your local health department or with a vaccine provider in your community. Ask how you can help them fill appointments with at-risk, eligible individuals.

Find providers at:
vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Promising Practice: Vaccine providers working with community organizations to fill appointments with eligible populations they serve.

Vaccine appointment navigation and access.

Offer to help older Ohioans or those without internet access with registering for a vaccination appointment.

Coordinate or offer rides for individuals to and from their vaccination appointments.

Q&A: Your questions about Ohio's vaccine plan

Questions	Resources	Contact us
<p>Please click unmute, then introduce yourself before asking your question.</p> <p>You can also drop your questions in the chat.</p>	<p>Visit our COVID-19 information hub for vaccine information and resources for providers and consumers.</p> <p>coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine</p>	<p>Do you have COVID-19 questions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact our Call Center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).• Contact our Provider Call Center at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829). <p>Russ Kennedy, deputy director for external affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Russ.Kennedy@odh.ohio.gov• (614) 406-0419