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Preparing for a COVID-19 Vaccine IDPH Planning & Distribution Update

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has convened a stakeholder advisory council, comprised of IMS and other leaders within the provider and public health community, to assist with planning and distribution of the impending COVID-19 vaccine. IMS has prepared this update to quickly convey the latest updates and will continue to provide these regular updates as they become available. Please note, this information is rapidly evolving and may change. Practices are encouraged to contact IMS with any questions about this information.

December 10, 2020

Approval of the first FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine is anticipated to be announced yet this week. The FDA advisory panel met on December 10 to discuss the Pfizer vaccine and make Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) determination with the panel signaling endorsement Thursday evening and clearing the path for formal FDA approval. Once approved, distribution chains will be activated and initial phases of vaccinate administration strategies will be mobilized. Based on the current expectations for PFA approval, the state is planning to receive its first allocations of the Pfizer vaccine the week of December 13.

Approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is anticipated to occur mid-December with the FDA convening on December 17 to review their EUA. It is expected that with prompt vaccine approval, Iowa will receive the first allocations of the Moderna vaccine the week of December 20. Between both Pfizer and Moderna allocations, the state is expecting to receive up to 172,000 total vaccines before the end of the year.

Allocation Date	Pfizer	Moderna	Total
Expect around 12/13/20	26,000	0	26,000
12/20/20	31,000	54,000	85,000
12/27/20	38,000	24,000	61,000
Total in first 3 weeks	95,100	77,000	172,000

The vaccine local allocation process is being determined based on priority population pro rate by county. IDPH has sent early allocation figures to local public health agencies (LPHAs) on December 7 through the Health Alert Network (HAN). Initial vaccine distribution supplies are currently enabling allotments that will support vaccination for up to 30% of the local healthcare worker population. LPHAs will then distribute county-level allocations to local healthcare organizations via IRIS for administration among Phase 1a prioritized populations.

Priority Populations Guidance

This report is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal guidance. Practices are encouraged to contact their legal counsel and medical liability carrier as they prepare for participation in the COVID-19 vaccine distribution program.

The Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released their [Interim Guidance on Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine](#). In this guidance, ACIP affirmed administration among health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities as first-line target populations for Phase 1a of COVID vaccination. Sub-prioritization recommendations within health care personnel populations identify those with direct patient contact, those who handle infectious material, and those who work in residential or long-term care facilities. IDPH with support of the Infectious Disease Advisory Council is evaluating potential additional guidance to assist in the further prioritization among health care personnel relative to job description/roles and higher risks for exposure and infection.

ACIP Phase 1a Priority Populations and Sub-Prioritization	
Health Care Personnel	Long-term Care Residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals with direct patient contact and unable to telework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personnel who provide services to patients or patients' family members ▪ Personnel who handle infectious materials ▪ Can include inpatient or outpatient settings • Personnel working in residential care or long-term care facilities • Personnel without known infection in prior 90 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reinfection appears uncommon during the initial 90 days after symptom onset of preceding infection ▪ Serologic testing not recommended prior to vaccination • Personnel who may be pregnant or breastfeeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No data on use of mRNA vaccines in pregnant/breastfeeding women ▪ Await Phase III data, FDA assessment, EUA Conditions of Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled nursing facilities care for most medically vulnerable residents • After skilled nursing facilities, consider broadening to other facilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisted living facilities ▪ Residential care communities ▪ Intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities ▪ State Veterans Homes

Further guidance regarding next-level prioritization of populations following administration among Phase 1a, including high-risk patient populations outside of long-term care facilities and other essential workers is in development. Such guidance, including population definitions and sub-prioritizations, for Phase 1b of the vaccination strategy are anticipated early 2021. ACIP will also reconvene following the approval of each vaccine to provide vaccine-specific guidance and recommendations recognizing there may be unique considerations and applications between vaccines.

Long-Term Care Vaccine Administration

IDPH has requested activation of the pharmacy partnership program for vaccination within long-term care facilities with vaccination first anticipated on December 28, as the earliest date possible. Three pharmacy organizations have been approved to administer vaccines through the partnership in Iowa: CVS, Walgreens, and Community Pharmacy out of Nebraska. The vaccination partnership program will administer vaccines to both long-term care residents and staff. All Iowa personnel and residents who receive vaccination through this program will receive the Pfizer vaccine, as each state is required to use only one vaccine brand for the program. Activation of vaccination strategies among assisted living facilities through the program is anticipated to occur in January 2021. Current definitions for what constitutes as long-

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term care and assisted living facilities are being based upon existing CMS definitions. Vaccination among staff and resident populations for other long-term resident and communal living facilities will be handled through local provider administration outside of the pharmacy partnership program. Additional guidance for those populations will be coming.

Provider Enrollment Update

To date, 1,475 organizational [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreements](#) have been approved by IDPH. These approved providers include all 99 local public health agencies, 109 hospitals, 282 long-term care facilities, 432 pharmacies, 170 public entities like FQHCs, and 383 private entities including many independent physician clinics. State mapping shows no major gaps in provider distribution across the state and IDPH reports that Iowa's provider enrollment rates are significantly ahead of neighboring states. As a reminder, IDPH will not be closing the provider enrollment process throughout the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and practices will have the ability to enroll at any time.

IDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

IDPH reports they are fielding a large volume of similar questions as practices are preparing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The state has prepared numerous FAQ and training documents, which cover much of this information. Practices are encouraged to review the extensive materials on the [IDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Website](#) to familiarize themselves with the resources available prior to contacting the IDPH call center.

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