



IOWA MEDICAL SOCIETY

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 18, 2020

COVID-19 vaccination has begun across the state with the first 26,000 doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine received by select health systems beginning Monday, December 14. Administration of these initial vaccines was initiated among healthcare personnel within the Phase 1a priority populations with more locations across the state receiving allocations every day.

Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) approval of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is expected imminently with the FDA review panel providing endorsement Thursday afternoon. The state will begin receiving additional vaccine distributions from the Moderna supply once formal EUA approval from the FDA is released. The Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will reconvene over the weekend to finalize vaccine-specific guidance and recommendations for the approved Moderna vaccine, recognizing there may be unique considerations and applications between vaccines.

Vaccine Supply Allocations

This week the state received notification that state vaccine allocations would be reduced by up to 30% from original estimates. State allocation estimates from the week of December 3 anticipated 172,000 total vaccine doses to be received between both Pfizer and Moderna vaccine supplies by year-end. Thursday evening, the IDPH received updated planning numbers from the CDC. As of December 17, the latest planning numbers anticipate 138,300 total vaccines by year-end. This represents a 20.4% reduction from original estimates.

Allocation Date	Pfizer	Moderna	Total
Expect around 12/13/20	26,000	0	26,000
12/20/20	19,500	53,800	73,300
12/27/20	19,500	19,500	39,000
Total in first 3 weeks	65,000	73,300	138,300

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 state Infectious Disease Advisory Council (IDAC) will meet over the weekend to discuss how the reduced vaccine allocations may affect prioritization, distribution, and timeline for vaccine administration of priority healthcare personnel. Despite reduced vaccine allocations, IDPH plans to still initiate the national pharmacy and long-term care vaccination partnership the week of December 28, recognizing that reduced vaccine allotments will affect previous timelines for vaccine administration totals.

Priority Populations Guidance

The state IDAC team met Monday, December 14 to further discuss priority population guidance expanding up on the [Interim Guidance on Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine](#) provided by ACIP. In their December 3 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-19 vaccination with sub-prioritization recommendations within health care personnel populations identified as those with direct patient contact, those who handle infectious material, and those who work in residential or long-term care facilities.

Following the multi-discipline, multi-sector discussion, IDAC identified language and further considerations guidance to supplement ACIP recommendations. These recommendations are intended to enable further prioritization and optimization of limited initial vaccine supply, based upon highest risk of exposure, frequency and duration of exposure, and risk of complications.

IDPH is preparing to publicly release the IDAC supplemental recommendations on December 18. Recommendations will be posted on the IDPH IDAC webpage. 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, are slated to begin next week.

Local Provider Vaccine Distribution

Local vaccine allocation is determined based on priority population pro rate by county. IDPH sends local allocation figures weekly to local public health agencies (LPHAs) through the Health Alert Network (HAN). LPHAs distribute county-level allocations to local healthcare organizations via IRIS for administration among Phase 1a prioritized populations. Initial vaccine distribution has centered up on hospitals and long-term care with distribution expanding as additional allocation distributions are received. Notice will come from local public health agencies to approved local providers to set up practice-level administration as local vaccine supplies and strategy progress.

IDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

IDPH reports that 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.

IMS Contacts	IDPH Contacts
Kady Reese e. kreese@iowamedical.org	Provider Call Center (800) 831-6293
Dennis Tibben e. dtibben@iowamedical.org	Provider Email covid19vaccine@idph.iowa.gov