

# COVID-19 Vaccination Program

## Guidance for ongoing vaccination of hospital-based healthcare workers

### **Background**

Providing COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare workers is one of the primary purposes of [Ohio's vaccine strategy](#). Healthcare workers are critical partners in Ohio's fight against COVID-19 and have provided life-saving care to our residents. Hospitals are also playing a key role in distribution of COVID-19 vaccine to Ohioans.

Beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, January 17, hospitals were required to pause the vaccination of their healthcare employees identified as eligible during [Phase 1A](#) and begin vaccinating age-eligible Ohioans identified in [Phase 1B](#), currently Ohioans 65 and older.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recognizes the ongoing need to vaccinate specific hospital personnel who, due to limited circumstances, were not vaccinated prior to January 17. As the supply of vaccine remains constrained, the following requirements shall apply to the ongoing vaccination of hospital healthcare workers.

### **Requirements for ongoing vaccine eligibility of hospital healthcare workers**

**Hospital personnel who are eligible for ongoing vaccination in Phase 1A are healthcare workers who are in frequent or episodic contact with COVID-19 patients or those who care for immunocompromised patients.**

- Ongoing vaccine eligibility in Phase 1A does not include board members or hospital administrative staff who do not have frequent or episodic contact with COVID-19 patients or care for immunocompromised patients. Individuals who can work from home or perform administrative functions and do not have frequent or episodic contact with COVID-19 patients or care for immunocompromised patients are required to wait until they are eligible in later phases of vaccine distribution, and are NOT eligible for vaccine under this policy.
- Examples of hospital healthcare workers eligible under this policy include hospital workers who did not receive a vaccine under earlier guidance because:
  1. They were pregnant when they were otherwise eligible to receive the vaccine but did not receive it.
  2. They tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of the date they would have received the vaccine if they had not tested positive within that 90-day period.
  3. They were not employed by the hospital and caring for COVID-19 patients prior to January 17.
  4. They delayed getting vaccinated because of good faith personal concerns related to the vaccine.

## **Vaccine allocation allowable for hospital healthcare workers**

As vaccine supply continues to be severely constrained, use of COVID-19 vaccine for the ongoing vaccination of healthcare workers who have frequent or episodic contact with COVID-19 patients or care for immunocompromised patients shall be subject to the following limitations:

- Hospitals receiving **less than 500 doses** per week may allocate no more than **10%** of the total weekly doses received toward eligible healthcare workers.
- Hospitals receiving **500 or more doses** per week may allocate no more than **5%** of the total weekly doses received toward eligible healthcare workers.

## **Hospital healthcare worker vaccine policy and certification of compliance**

Hospitals wishing to provide ongoing vaccinations to healthcare workers under this policy shall adopt an internal policy and procedures to ensure compliance with the eligibility and allocation limitations set forth herein.

In addition, each hospital's Chief Executive Officer, or equivalent, shall provide a certification of compliance regarding the adoption of the required policy and procedures. The certification shall be in the form prescribed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health. No hospital is permitted to utilize vaccination for healthcare workers per the instructions in this guidance until the Certificate of Compliance has been signed by the CEO and Compliance Officer and sent to the Ohio Department of Health via email to [covidvaccine@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:covidvaccine@odh.ohio.gov).

## **Beginning of the program**

This program shall commence the week of March 1, 2021, provided that the completed Certificate of Compliance has been received by the Ohio Department of Health.

Hospitals and healthcare systems that have not completed the Certificate of Compliance are not permitted to use vaccine doses for employees until the receipt of the certificate by the Ohio Department of Health.

## **Reporting requirements**

In addition to all required vaccine reporting requirements, please remember to complete the [target population/occupation \(TPO\) codes](#) for healthcare workers who meet the definition in this policy.

*Created Feb. 25, 2021.*

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

*If you have any questions or issues, please call the ODH Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email [COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov). You also may visit the [ODH COVID-19 Vaccine Providers](#) information and training page for additional information and resources*