

Local Health Department (LHD) Guidance

COVID-19 Vaccine: Congregate Care and Healthcare Providers in Phase 1A

High-risk healthcare providers (HCPs) and residents and staff of congregate care facilities are prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1A. During Phase 1A, local health departments should coordinate vaccination of congregate care residents and staff at facilities not enrolled in the federal long-term care (LTC) pharmacy program or as providers themselves; and HCPs who are not otherwise vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems or not enrolled as providers themselves. Local health departments should seek to coordinate vaccination of both congregate care staff/residents and HCPs simultaneously within Phase 1A as logistical considerations allow.

People to be vaccinated in congregate care facilities during Phase 1A include:

- Residents and staff of nursing homes and assisted living facilities not enrolled in the federal pharmacy program.
- People with developmental disabilities and those with mental health disorders including substance use disorders who live in group homes, residential facilities, or centers and staff at those locations not enrolled in the federal pharmacy program.

Healthcare providers prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1A should be those with the greatest occupational risk for exposure to and/or transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Examples of prioritized high-risk healthcare workers include (in no specific priority order):

- Home health/hospice workers not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- Emergency Medical Services responders.
- Primary care practitioners, including family medicine and general medicine providers.
- Freestanding EDs, urgent care, pharmacies, and dialysis centers not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- OB-GYN practitioners not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- Federally Qualified Health Center providers.
- Dental providers.
- Surgeons not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- Mobile unit practitioners.
- Healthcare providers, including public health employees, at risk for exposure to and/or transmission of SARS-CoV-2, such as vaccinators.

Also included in this prioritization level are high-risk ancillary healthcare staff (for example, but not limited to, transport and janitorial support staff).

To support the equitable delivery of these limited resources, the [Ohio Department of Health Opportunity Index](#) is available to provide contextual neighborhood vulnerability information.

In addition, local health departments are responsible for tracking and coordinating the administration of the second vaccine dose; the second dose is being held by federal partners and will be supplied at the appropriate interval.

Created Dec. 15, 2020.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.