

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)



Preliminary CDC COVID-19 vaccine planning FAQs



Audience: Leaders, Response Team commanders, vaccine operations teams

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COVID-19 Response Team Owner: Clinical Operations

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What's changed: Renamed to "Preliminary CDC COVID-19 vaccine planning FAQs" from "COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs." No change to content. Please refer to our [General Vaccine FAQs](#), [Vaccine Information page](#) and the [Vaccine Guidebook](#) for the latest information.

CDC vaccine distribution planning FAQs as of 11-25-2020 2:40 p.m.:

1. What guidance/consideration did CDC provide states as they determine initial vaccine sites? Is cold storage capability a criteria for determination?

CDC guidance to states included:

- Recruit as many sites as you can.
- Vaccinating the US population is an "all hands on deck" activity.
- Recruit some sites with ultra-cold storage and others that have normal freezers.
- The state plan should cover all parts of the state or jurisdiction.

In addition, CDC has asked the states to identify up to five facilities to serve as a "beachhead" for vaccine distribution. These sites will be first to get vaccine and should have quick access to cold storage. Other considerations include geographic diversity, reporting capability, and ability to administer 150K shots within one week.

2. Will beta-site vaccinators be required to vaccinate other 1a health care providers or just their own?

CDC has not provided guidance on this question, so state variation exists. If a second batch is delivered within days from the first, and to more hospitals, concern becomes minimized. However, there is no information on timing of expansion yet.

3. Will the CDC/APS (HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response) develop vaccine specific playbooks for providers?

Yes, as demonstrated at the CDC's vaccine site, the following vaccine-specific resources are being created:

- Online training module
- Vaccine preparation and administration summary
- Storage and handling summary
- Temperature log and beyond-use date tracking tool when using the thermal shipping container for storage, including online fillable PDF version
- Temperature log for ultra-cold freezer units, including online fillable PDF version
- Beyond use date tracker labels for refrigerator storage

- Standing orders template

The timing of these is not yet known.

4. Will vaccinators be expected to track adverse events and remind individuals when it is time for second dose?

Vaccinator roles are determined by states. The CDC has launched V-SAFE, a new text messaging service that will send daily questionnaires to patients after they've received a COVID-19 vaccination. The CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs questionnaires will ask about potential vaccine-related adverse events. Health care providers are strongly encouraged (but not required) to ask patients to sign up for the service. Learn more here. Some states are pursuing other text messaging services and mobile apps that can provide this same service. In addition to the voluntary app V-SAFE, all vaccinators will be required to report any known or expected vaccine adverse events through the normal VAERS channel for all vaccines.

5. If a state refuses to sign a data agreement for national registry reporting, what will be the implications? Will it be denied the vaccine?

We don't anticipate CDC would refuse to send vaccines. We understand they are working with states to address registry concerns and have expressed the willingness to potentially relax some reporting requirements. Eleven states have yet to sign up.

6. When will CDC-ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) finalize prioritization for round-one distribution and will there be any room for state deviation? Will they offer guidance/considerations for prioritization w/in 1a?

The ACIP will not offer guidance for the initial batch that is expected to be delivered within 24 hours from when FDA emergency-use approval is granted to beta sites. However, the CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is expected to recommend who should receive the second batch of vaccine. Trinity Health guidance on 1a prioritization is in development.

7. Will all approved vaccines be treated as equivalent in the early phases? Which ones will states get?

Yes, assuming they receive FDA EUA all vaccines will be treated the same. All states will get a variety of vaccines. There are no plans to divide states into groups and give some Pfizer and others Moderna.

8. When will the next round of vaccinators be selected? What will that criteria include?

The stated goal is to include as many hospitals as possible in the second batch of vaccinators. Pharmacies will help with nursing home and other congregate living facilities.

9. Will the 12/10 and 12/17 independent vaccine advisory committee hearings be open to the public?

Yes, the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee hearings are public and can be viewed at <https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisorycommittee/meeting-materials-vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee>

10. The vaccines may have side effects especially after the second injection when immune response is stronger. Are we factoring this into our plans?

We are awaiting additional information but currently we understand there have been reports of sore arms, headaches, and fatigue which is more pronounced with the second shot. This is to be expected and is a sign that the immune system is working. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

11. Are most of the ministries planning drive-through testing process for employees?

One of the CDC recommendations for providing mass vaccinations safely during a pandemic is to use drive-through vaccination clinics. In this case, there would have to be adequate space so that vaccinated individuals could wait in their cars for 15 minutes after vaccination to be observed for any immediate side effects.

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

12. Will we be developing a check in workday or somewhere else to determine who has been vaccinated and/or if there are refusals?

HR and the Operations team is currently working on a process by which colleagues could document that they have been vaccinated. This would be a voluntary process in order to understand the uptake of vaccination within

our health system. We will not be utilizing Occupational Health/Employee Health to administer colleague vaccines, as vaccination is voluntary at this time.