



COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points

REVISED Dec. 18, 2020

Topline Messages

- Vaccination is the safest, most effective and most reliable way to keep yourself, your family and your community healthy and safe from COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines are 95% effective and have undergone rigorous safety testing.
- Oregon will prioritize people who are most at risk and hardest hit. Front-line health care workers will receive the first vaccinations, with a focus on staff who are at highest risk of exposure to the virus in their work. Residents and staff in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities also will be among the first vaccinated.
- Vaccination gives us hope that the pandemic will end, but in the meantime, we need to continue safety measures to keep the virus from spreading: wear a mask, physically distance from others, wash your hands, avoid gatherings and stay home when you're sick.

Safety and efficacy

- The vaccine won't end the pandemic, but vaccination will. It's important that everyone is vaccinated to achieve community immunity.
- COVID-19 vaccines have been evaluated extensively in large-scale clinical trials that involved more people than in a typical vaccine trial. These trials involved adults from a diverse and inclusive range of races, ethnicities and ages.
- COVID-19 vaccines are vetted for safety and efficacy by three independent scientific groups, including the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB), the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- It's important that people remember basic COVID-19 safety measures to stop the spread of disease: wear a mask, social distance, avoid large gatherings and social get-togethers, wash your hands and stay home when you're sick.

Prioritization

- As COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will ensure the distribution process is based on community involvement that will provide an equitable system challenging the roles of power, privilege and racism—informed by a newly assembled Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC).

- Using an equity framework, OHA is currently distributing COVID-19 vaccine in line with the phased approach recommended by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP):
 - 1A. Health care workers, EMS, long-term care facility (LTCF) employees and residents.
 - 1B. Workers such as teachers, bus drivers, food processors and other people who keep our society open and economy moving. OHA's Vaccine Advisory Committee, representing community perspectives, will identify and prioritize this group.
 - 1C. People with underlying health conditions, and people older than 65.

Distribution

- Details for Oregon's Phase 1a are available on the OHA COVID-19 vaccine website in the [Oregon's Phase 1a COVID-19 Vaccine Plan and Recommended Sequencing](#) document. In addition to the using the equity framework, OHA is consulting with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and conferring with the Urban Indian Health Program on COVID-19 vaccine issues that may impact the tribes (and the health of their members) who have chosen to receive the state vaccine allocation as part of planning and decision-making regarding COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Finally, future phases of vaccine distribution will also be informed by the advice of Oregon's soon-to-be established COVID Vaccine Advisory Committee.

- Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are reportedly about 95% effective after two doses, 21 days and 28 days apart, respectively.
- Both vaccines are messenger RNA, or mRNA, vaccines that give our cells instructions for how to fight the virus if we are infected in the future. The FDA requires rigorous safety testing before approving any vaccine.
- The COVID-19 vaccine will be available at no cost, though providers may charge insurance an administration fee.

Allocation

On Dec. 10, the Vaccines and Related Biological Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) recommended the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorize the use of the Pfizer vaccine. The FDA gave final approval on Dec. 11 and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved it on Dec. 12. On Dec. 17, members of VRBPAC unanimously recommended the FDA grant an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Moderna's vaccine candidate.

Oregon’s estimated vaccine allocations from the CDC (**actual number may change**):

Oregon Allocations	Week of Dec 13	Week of Dec 20	Week of Dec 27
Pfizer	35,100	25,350	48,750*
Skilled Nursing Facilities	10,725	5,850	5,850
Hospitals and other facilities**	24,375	19,500	42,900
Moderna	-	72,100	31,700
Hospitals and other facilities**	-	72,100	31,700

Data Source: CDC

*May include 2nd doses

**Other facilities may include tribal health clinics and correctional sites with inpatient facilities

Hospitals

All hospitals in Oregon will eventually get vaccine. The first round of doses depended on storage capabilities, how many health care workers are employed in that county, and whether the hospital’s enrollment is complete and they are registered in the system with CDC and OHA.

- Pfizer vaccine will go to providers with ultra-low temperature (ULT) storage capacity and to providers located in counties with more than 2,500 health care providers
- Moderna vaccine will go to providers without ULT storage capacity and to providers located in counties with fewer than 2,500 health care providers
- Vaccine will be distributed evenly across sites within a county and then adjusted for estimated health care population size.

Allocation Methodology

CDC allocates doses to states pro-rata, or based upon the percent of the US population they account for. For Oregon, that is approximately 1.28%. Oregon is then allocated on a weekly basis approximately 1.28% of the available COVID-19 vaccine produced by all manufacturers.

Pfizer, Dose #1

- Five pre-position hospitals received the first shipments.
- OHA placed the orders that were delivered across a 3-day period Dec. 14, 15 and 16.

- Legacy received the first shipment at 7:30 a.m. and began giving vaccinations 48 hours later, on Dec. 16.
- CDC reports that the remaining Pfizer week 1 shipments will be delivered by the end of the day on Dec. 18.

Moderna, Dose #1

- OHA will place Moderna allocations in ALERT IIS. Providers will not order the initial shipment.
- Shipments will occur after the ACIP issues a recommendation.
- OHA expects the ACIP decision on Dec. 20.
- Moderna deliveries are currently expected to begin Dec. 21, 22, and 23.

Long-Term Care Facilities

Oregon is participating in a Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program with CVS, Walgreens, and Consonus pharmacy.

- Pharmacy partners will provide on-site vaccination clinics in partnership with LTCFs and congregate care settings throughout Oregon.
- 22,425 doses from Oregon's first three weeks of Pfizer allocations will be provided to these partners for this vaccination effort.
- Vaccination will begin in skilled nursing facilities with these pharmacy partners Dec. 21, 22 and 23.

Questions

Questions about enrolling as a COVID-19 vaccination provider can be sent to:
Vaccine.ProviderEnroll@dhsosha.state.or.us

General questions: Covid19.vaccine@state.or.us

Visit our **OHA COVID-19 Vaccine Website:** <http://healthoregon.org/covidvaccine>

Spanish: <http://healthoregon.org/vacunacovid>

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