OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE
WEEKLY UPDATE

#IN THIS
TOGETHER
Ohio

December 21, 2020

PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **FDA update about Pfizer-BioNTech doses** - The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is packaged with five doses per vial. However, vaccine administrators have reported extra doses in those vials, and have questioned if they are useable. The FDA is advising that it is acceptable to use every full dose obtainable (the sixth, or possibly even a seventh) from each vial, pending further study. The amount remaining in the vials after removal of five doses can vary depending on the type of needles and syringes used, according to Pfizer. Any further remaining liquid that does not constitute a full dose should not be pooled from multiple vials to create one dose.

- **Moderna vaccines arriving Dec. 21 - 23** - The FDA has issued emergency use authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended that the vaccine be used in people 18 years of age and older. Shipments are slated to arrive Dec. 21 - 23; ancillary kits began shipping Friday. The shipping address is the address an organization provided in Section B of the provider enrollment agreement at registration. If you would like to verify your shipping address, please call the ODH Provider Call at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov. Fact sheets and supplemental information from Moderna are available here.

- **Pfizer-BioNTech vaccinations underway** - Last week, vaccinations began for healthcare staff at Ohio's 10 prepositioned hospitals, as well as for residents and staff of 10 nursing homes and veterans homes across the state as a part of an early scaling-up of the federal pharmacy program. Additional vaccination clinics for Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines will continue on Monday, Dec. 21 and beyond.

- **V-Safe After Vaccination Health Checker** - The CDC has launched a new smartphone-based tool called **v-safe** to check-in on people's health after they receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Read more here.

- **Second dose reminders** - Supplemental information for second-dose reminders has been emailed to providers. It is important to ensure that patients know that the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are not interchangeable, and they should schedule their follow-up appointments immediately. There should be 21 days between the first and second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, and 28 days between the first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine.

- **Local Health Department Guidance Issued** - ODH has provided guidance for Phase 1A prioritization to local health departments administering vaccines here.

- **Method to collect target population/occupation** - As Ohio distributes COVID-19 vaccines, collecting data around the number of vaccine recipients from each target population or occupation is critical. Providers will need to collect that data using a paper checklist and then add the information in ImpactSIIS within 24 hours using one of three processes. More details and training are available here.

- **Collecting race and ethnicity data** - Having race and ethnicity data is at the heart of ensuring optimal health and fairness for all Ohioans. Consistently collecting and reporting race and ethnicity data is also critical to understanding the impact of COVID-19 and to ensure that vaccine is reaching groups who are experiencing disparities related to cases, hospitalization, and death. For more information and resources on this topic, please see the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Inventory of Resources for Standardized Demographic and Language Data Collection.

RESOURCES

HOW TO ENROLL

Pandemic Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information

PROVIDER RESOURCES

Pandemic Vaccine Provider Resource Page

FAQ for Health Providers

PFIZER RESOURCES

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Providers

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Patients

MODERNA RESOURCES

EUA Fact Sheet for Vaccination Providers NEW

EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers NEW

Additional Moderna Resources NEW

VACCINE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

This toolkit will be expanded with additional resources but is being provided now to support your immediate needs.

TALKING POINTS

The most trusted voices when it comes to information about COVID-19 are an individual's personal physician, medical experts, and emergency room doctors, followed by public health officials. As a vaccine provider, you can be one of those trusted sources of information for your patients and constituents.

- Ohio is prepared to distribute **safe** and **effective** COVID-19 vaccines statewide. We have two clear goals: To save lives and slow the spread of the virus.

- The COVID-19 vaccine development process included several steps comparable with those used to develop earlier vaccines, such as the flu or measles vaccine. The FDA and independent medical experts have ensured that every detail of these vaccines are thoroughly and rigorously evaluated.

- Initially, there will be a limited number of vaccines available, and Ohio is committed to making the vaccine widely available, for those who want to receive it, as quickly as possible as shipments arrive.

- In the early stages of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, doses will be available in limited supply for specific critical populations as a part of phased approach. As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated.

- The vaccine has been shown to decrease the severity of illness in people who catch this virus. Having a significant portion of Ohioans vaccinated will help us prevent serious hospitalizations and death and will allow Ohioans to get closer to a sense of normalcy.

- Using all the tools available to help prevent the spread of the virus continues to be critical until a substantial number of Ohioans can be vaccinated. Continuing to wear masks and social distance will reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus. Proper prevention measures coupled with the vaccine will provide the best protection from COVID-19.

- An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authorizes use of an unapproved medical product, or unapproved use of an approved medical product, for use during a public health emergency if the benefits of its use outweigh any known or potential risks. Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines have been granted EUA following rigorous review. In the past, EUAs have been issued for products, devices, and drugs related to Ebola, H1N1, Zika, and others. The EUAs are valid until the pandemic is over, the FDA revokes the EUAs, or the products are approved for traditional licensure by the FDA. The FDA closely monitors each vaccine for safety after the EUA is issued. Drug manufacturers are encouraged to obtain traditional FDA licensed vaccine approval as soon as possible.

- COVID-19 vaccines can save lives. COVID-19 is deadly and has killed more than 8,000 Ohioans and more than 316,000 people across the U.S. *(Updated Dec. 20, 2020)*

RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine

Ohio's Phased Approach

Phase 1A Vaccine Distribution Graphic and Fact Sheet

COVID-19 Myths vs. Facts

COVID-19 Vaccines FAQ

CDC RESOURCES

Communications Toolkit for Medical Centers, Clinics and Clinicians

Vaccinate with Confidence

Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines

About V-Safe

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Who Gets Vaccinated First?

What to Expect at Your Vaccine Appointment

Ensuring Safety of Vaccines

Different Vaccines

SOCIAL MEDIA POST IDEAS

- Right now, vaccine supply is still limited. Until a substantial number of Ohioans can be vaccinated, proper prevention, like wearing masks & social distancing, will reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus during the pandemic. Don't let up. https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine

- In the early vaccination phase, supply will be limited. As the number of available doses increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated. See more about Ohio's phased approach ↓
Learn more → https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine
   Suggested graphic: Ohio's Phased Approach

- Fact: #COVID19 vaccines weren't rushed and have been thoroughly vetted through a rigorous safety assessment involving independent medical professionals. See more myths vs. facts at https://bit.ly/OHVaccineMyths.

- FACT: #COVID19 vaccine development and clinical trials were thorough, and thanks to a strategic scientific effort to streamline processes, could be developed more efficiently. Learn more at https://bit.ly/OHVaccineMyths.

- FACT: No serious safety concerns have been observed for the #COVID19 vaccines being administered in the U.S. Learn more at https://bit.ly/OHVaccineMyths.