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Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Providers Workgroup

Conference Call December 16, 2020

OPA Representatives Don Bennett and Kathy Nameth

This was the second conference call in what will be a regular weekly occurrence.

Lance Himes, ODH Senior Director provided an update on the roll out of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Highlights of his presentation include

1. Pfizer has shipped 1,600,000 vaccine doses in the first three days. There have not been any major shipping or receiving issues.
2. Starting the week of December 21 an additional 70,000 doses (down from a projected 123,000 doses) of the Pfizer vaccine will be shipped to Ohio. Assuming the Moderna vaccine is approved this week, 201,900 doses should be shipped to Ohio. Starting the week of December 28 an additional 148,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine and 89,000 Moderna vaccine are expected.
3. The first shipment of Pfizer vaccine was split as 10% to prepositioned hospitals and 90% distributed for administration to LTC residents and staff.
 - a. 9,750 doses were split among 10 “pre-positioned” hospitals around the state. These 975 doses per hospital are intended for their high risk front line employees.
 - b. An additional 88,725 doses were shipped to CVS, Walgreens, Absolute, and PharmScripts for administration to LTC residents and staff. **This is mandated by a federal contract. The roll out of the first dose of the two dose regimen is expected to occur over a four week period. If your pharmacy serves a LTC facility, check with them to see if they have been contacted by one of these 4 providers to coordinate vaccine administration. If they have not been contacted, the LTC facility should contact Haylee Dunahay, Director of Coalitions for the Governor’s Office at Haylee.Dunahay@governor.ohio.gov.**

4. Many of the anticipated vaccine doses in the second shipments will be going to local health departments to vaccinate critical healthcare workers. This “second level” of the 1A priority group includes an emphasis to “vaccinate the vaccinators” including pharmacists who are registered with the ODH as COVID-19 vaccine providers.

Currently there are 764 providers enrolled including over 200 pharmacies. **Enrollment is still open. Go to <https://ohid.ohio.gov> to enroll. You need to complete the training modules on the website. The website is updated regularly, so check frequently. There is a comprehensive checklist on the website to assist with your preparation to be able to administer the vaccines. ODH confirmed that you do not need to have a freezer that can maintain the extremely low temperatures for vaccine storage. If you completed the registration and have not heard back after one week, contact ODH. You also need to sign up for the state immunization registry, ImpactSIIS if you are not already enrolled.**

5. Governor DeWine announced that a vaccine dash board is coming soon. This will allow the tracking of the number of vaccinations per county and will have some other demographics.
6. Providers will be encouraged to report vaccine related adverse reactions to the national VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System).

7. A nurse in Alaska experienced a severe allergic reaction to the Pfizer vaccine. She was treated and did not require hospitalization. Previously, there were two allergic reactions identified in the United Kingdom.
8. During the Q&A session, the ODH committed to compile a list of local dry ice suppliers. The Pfizer vaccine must be stored at minus 70 degrees Celsius. This temperature can be maintained in the special Pfizer shipping container as long as dry ice is applied. (Note: the Moderna vaccine requires a storage temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius).