

OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **Possible vaccine shipment delays this week due to severe weather** – Shipments directly from Moderna and Pfizer may be delayed. All providers are strongly encouraged to closely monitor vaccine shipping information in VOMS or the UPS tracking system. If there is no information yet in VOMS, that means a shipping label has not yet been created for your shipment. Providers may need to adjust vaccination and clinic schedules based on these shipment delays. If any cancellations or changes are necessary, notify your patients using as many communication methods as possible including phone calls, email messages, website updates and social media updates. ODH will continue to share new information about shipment statuses. With more severe weather expected, additional impacts are possible. We appreciate your patience as we continue to monitor weather conditions and consult with our industry partners about the best approach for ensuring successful COVID-19 vaccine shipments.
- **Pfizer vaccine quantities updated:** The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has officially updated the number of vaccine doses per vial from five to six. This changes the overall quantity per shipment.
 - Pfizer vaccine directly shipped from the manufacturer will arrive in increments of 1,170 doses (previously 975). Each Pfizer tray will still contain 195 vials of vaccine, but each vial will be counted as six doses now.
 - Pfizer vaccine shipped from the Ohio Department of Health RSS Warehouse will now be in increments of 120 doses (previously 100).
 - Pfizer has already updated its ancillary kits to include enough supplies for up to 1,170 doses. [Read additional guidance about maximizing doses of the Pfizer vaccine here.](#)
- **VMS 411 sessions to be held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 3 p.m.** – Learn more about Ohio's Vaccine Management Solution (VMS) at an upcoming VMS 411 Session. These sessions will go over key questions and concerns, highlight best practices in capturing data within the VMS system, and capture provider feedback. If time permits, there will be an opportunity for a question-and-answer period.

When: Every Wednesday and Friday, from 3-4 p.m. (ending Friday, April 2, 2021)
How to join:
Online using Microsoft Teams: <http://bit.ly/OhioVMA411>
By phone: 872-215-2965
Phone conference ID: 739 278 746#
One-click dial by phone: [+1 872-215-2965, 739278746#](tel:+18722152965)
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls start next Monday** - A [communications toolkit](#) is available for your use to help promote the COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls in your community. Thank you for your assistance in spreading the word about these Town Halls, which will be livestreamed and available online on-demand after the events, and can be watched on the Ohio Channel after the events. The livestream dates and times are as follows:
 - Monday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. – African American Ohioans
 - Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. – Hispanic/Latino Ohioans
 - Monday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. – Asian American and Pacific Islander Ohioans
 - Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. – Rural Ohioans
- **Reminder: medical disorders group began Feb. 15** – As a part of Ohio's Phase 1B vaccinations, the group that became eligible this week with [specific qualifying medical conditions](#) will be permitted to be vaccinated by the provider of their choice. We ask that providers do their best to proactively identify this population from existing patients while also making vaccine available to those who self-identify as having one of the conditions listed in the [Phase 1B Medical Conditions sheet](#).

RESOURCES

HOW TO ENROLL

[Pandemic Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information](#)

PROVIDER RESOURCES

[Pandemic Vaccine Provider Resource Page](#)

[FAQ for Health Providers](#)

[Phase 1B guidance](#)

UPDATED

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](#)

[EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)

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.

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
- 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.
- Whether you hear myths on social media, at work, or from friends or family, there is a lot of dangerous misinformation out there about COVID-19 vaccines. The truth is that COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and rigorously tested. Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls are designed to help you sift through the myths and learn where you can find reliable, trustworthy information about COVID-19 vaccines. Learn more at coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall.
- While we know that many people in our community are eager to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we must be patient while demand for the vaccine remains higher than the available supply. As vaccine supply increases, we will be able to vaccinate more of those in Phase 1B, and eventually, as vaccine becomes widely available, all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated will be able to receive COVID-19 vaccines.
- 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.
- The COVID-19 vaccine development process included several steps comparable with those used to develop earlier vaccines, such as the flu or chicken pox vaccine. The FDA and independent medical experts have ensured that every detail of these vaccines are thoroughly and rigorously evaluated.
- 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 — like wearing a mask, washing your hands, and practicing social distancing — coupled with the vaccine, will provide the best protection from COVID-19.
- You should continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing after being vaccinated. While the vaccine should protect you from becoming sick with COVID-19, not enough is known about whether or not you can still carry the virus and spread it to others. At this time, those who get the vaccine should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine

[Ohio's Phased Approach](#)

[Priority Populations Distribution Fact Sheet](#)

[Phase 1B Distribution Graphic and medical conditions](#)

[Myths vs. Facts](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines FAQ](#)

[Safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines](#)

[Trust the facts graphic](#)

CDC RESOURCES

[Communications Toolkit for Medical Centers, Clinics and Clinicians](#)

[Vaccinate with Confidence](#)

[Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)

[About V-Safe](#)

[Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[What to Expect at Your Vaccine Appointment](#)

[Ensuring Safety of Vaccines](#)

[Different Vaccines](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA POST IDEAS

- Odds are, you've heard a myth about COVID-19 vaccines, leaving you with more questions than answers. Get answers at Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls, featuring medical experts, community leaders, and public health professionals.  <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall>
- Our road back is just beginning, and we need your help. Please continue to social distance and wear a mask, until we're all protected and back to the way we remember. #InThisTogetherOhio <https://youtu.be/yLlyeq7juls>
- Vaccines are available at approximately 1,000 locations across Ohio – like pharmacies, local health departments, federally qualified health centers, and hospitals. Find a provider near you with the statewide search tool  <http://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov>.
- When can I get my COVID-19 vaccine? Ohioans eligible:
 - ✓ Age 65+
 - ✓ Those with intellectual or developmental disability AND certain medical conditions
 - ✓ K-12 school employees
 - ✓ Feb. 15 - Those with specific medical conditions bit.ly/OhioVaccine
[suggested graphic: Phase 1B medical conditions]
- Trust the FACTS: #COVID19 vaccines won't change your DNA, alter your genetic makeup, implant you with a tracking chip, or cause infertility. See more debunked myths at <https://bit.ly/OHVaccineMyths>
[suggested graphic: Trust the Facts 4]