

OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **Happy holidays from the Ohio Department of Health:** We wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season. This year, it's crucial to celebrate safely. The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic is to celebrate holidays at home with members of your household. We urge you to connect with loved ones near and far with a video call. We have assembled a [Holiday Celebrations guide](#) and supplemental [toolkit](#) with ideas for celebrating small (and creatively) to protect all of your loved ones.
- **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 age 18 and older. Shipments are slated to arrive at healthcare facilities Dec. 21 – 23. 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. The Pfizer vaccine is recommended for people age 16 and older.
- **Second dose reminders** - It is important for those receiving a COVID-19 vaccine to 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. Healthcare providers will issue a reminder card when giving the first dose. That card will indicate the manufacturer of the vaccine and the date when second dose is due.
- **Vaccination dashboard** - Governor DeWine announced that Ohio will launch a new COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard at coronavirus.ohio.gov. The dashboard, available now, lists the number of people vaccinated in Ohio and provides data by county, age, race, ethnicity, and sex.
- **Public emergency levels and indicators** - When seeking to determine the level of risk in each county, Governor DeWine encourages Ohioans to look at more data than the color-coded map showing the [public health advisory alert level](#). All 88 counties have a level of spread that is at least three times more than what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers high incidence. Additional indicators show the counties ranked by highest occurrence, as well as hospitalizations and ICU admissions. Find additional [COVID-19 data](#), updated weekly, at coronavirus.ohio.gov.
- **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](#).
- **New PSA featuring Ohio nurses** - Governor DeWine unveiled a new public service announcement featuring four of Ohio's frontline nurses. The nurses describe what it's like taking care of COVID patients in Ohio's hospitals. The videos, "[We need your help](#)" and "[COVID-19 is unpredictable](#)," are available now. Please consider sharing these messages on your social media accounts from the Ohio Department of Health social media channels.

RESOURCES

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

[COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

[Ohio public health orders](#)

[Travel advisory](#)

[Quarantine guidance](#)

[COVID-19 Myths vs. Facts](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines FAQ](#)

[FAQ for Health Providers](#)

[Ohio's Phased Approach](#)

[Phase 1A Vaccine Distribution Graphic](#) and [Fact Sheet](#)

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](#)

[Additional Moderna Resources](#)



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)*

VACCINE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

This [toolkit](#) will be expanded with additional resources but is being provided now to support your immediate needs.

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 [\[1\]](#)
Learn more [\[2\]](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine) <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>.