

# OHIO VACCINE PREPAREDNESS OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

## PANDEMIC VACCINE NEWS & UPDATES THIS WEEK

- **Vaccine phase progression** – During a press conference on Monday, Feb. 22, Governor Mike DeWine shared that because those ages 65 and older make up approximately 87 percent of all COVID-19 deaths in Ohio, the priority for vaccinations will be to vaccinate as many Ohioans in that age group as possible. No additional age groups are eligible for the vaccine at this time. Once the demand for the vaccine has been met for those age 65 and older, those ages 60 and older will become eligible. After a period of vaccination for this age group, those ages 55 and older will become eligible, followed by those ages 50 and up. Individuals in specific small groups that could have an increased risk of exposure to the virus may also potentially be included in the next vaccination phase.
- **Change in notification cycle for weekly vaccine allocations** – ODH will now be receiving information about the following week's allocations from the federal government on Tuesday afternoons. This change means you will receive your weekly allocation notices and reminders on Wednesday mornings moving forward.
- **Johnson & Johnson EUA hearing** – A U.S. Food and Drug Administration panel will review Johnson & Johnson's emergency use authorization request on Feb. 26 for its [single-dose COVID-19 vaccine](#). If the FDA approves the request, and the CDC also recommends its use, the company plans to begin shipments immediately.
- **Long-term care facilities maintenance program** – Ohio launched its COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Program for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Each month, facilities can host a vaccine clinic for residents and staff if there is the need for vaccinations. The program ensures that vaccinations in long-term care facilities continue for new residents and staff or current residents and staff who have now decided to be vaccinated.
- **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 underway** - 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, and can be watched on the Ohio Channel after the events. The livestream dates and times are as follows:
  - Monday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. – Focus on concerns of Asian American and Pacific Islander Ohioans
  - Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. – Focus on concerns of those living in rural Ohio**Town Halls now available on demand:**
  - [Focus on concerns of Ohio's African American Community](#)
  - [Focus on concerns of Ohio's Latino Community \(en español\)](#)

## RESOURCES

### HOW TO ENROLL

[Pandemic Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information](#)

### PROVIDER RESOURCES

[Pandemic Vaccine Provider Resource Page](#)

[FAQ for Health Providers](#)

[Phase 1B guidance](#)

### LATEST LINKS

[Product Information Guide for COVID-19 Vaccines and Associated Products](#) (Updated 2/17/21)

[Checklist for Jurisdiction Accounting for 6 doses of Pfizer Vaccine](#) (2/16/21)

[Guidance for Providers on Maximizing Doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (2/16/21)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance to Transport to Homebound](#) (2/16/21)

[Newly Updated Guidance on Transporting Moderna to Offsite Clinics](#) (2/16/21)

### PFIZER RESOURCES

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Providers](#)

## 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](https://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.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POST IDEAS

- 🤔 Curious about #COVID19 vaccines?  
🔍 Find answers to your questions at Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Town Halls w/ medical experts, community leaders, & public health professionals.  
📄 [coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/townhall)
- Safe. Effective. Rigorously tested. Older Ohioans are now eligible to receive #COVID19 vaccines if they choose. Vaccines are limited, and rolling out in a phased approach, and will eventually be available to all Ohioans.  
<https://youtu.be/p0-MgPCQFhk>
- We know you have questions about the #COVID19 vaccine, like "Are they effective?" and "What are the side effects?" Learn this and more in the COVID-19 vaccine FAQ 📄 <https://bit.ly/OhioVaccineFAQ>
- Vaccines are available at approximately 1,200 locations across Ohio – including 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>.
- 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]*

[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.

### RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC

[coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine](https://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

[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](#)