

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Brief

November 3, 2020

Changes to the document from the previous version are highlighted in yellow.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement** - To receive and administer COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies, vaccination providers must enroll in the U.S. Government (USG) COVID-19 vaccination program by signing and agreeing to conditions outlined in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement.
- The [REDCap Survey/CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement](#) is available at [this link](#).
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement Clarifications**
 - The REDCap survey/COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement needs to be completed by healthcare organizations and clinics. ***Each healthcare provider (MD, DO, NP, PA, RPh) in the organization or clinic DOES NOT need to complete the REDCap survey.*** The survey can be completed at the healthcare organization or clinic level and all healthcare providers should be listed as prescribing providers.
 - Healthcare organizations with multiple clinics should complete a REDCap survey/COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement for each location. This will allow vaccines to be shipped directly to each location and vaccine doses administered to be appropriately documented in IRIS.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** - This document is posted to HAN and the Department's COVID-19 webpage, under the [Vaccine](#) tab. Questions regarding the REDCap/vaccine program provider agreement can be directed to the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 1-800-831-6293, Option 1 or COVID19Vaccine@idph.iowa.gov.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Enrolled Providers** - A list of COVID-19 Vaccine enrolled providers will be posted to the Health Alert Network (HAN) and updated daily.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Resources

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center** - IDPH has established a healthcare provider COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center. To reach the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center, call **1-800-831-6293, Option 1**.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Email** - IDPH has set up a COVID-19 Vaccine Email to respond specifically to questions from healthcare providers regarding COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine questions can be emailed to: COVID19Vaccine@idph.iowa.gov.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions** - IDPH has prepared COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents for healthcare providers, LPHAs and the public.

- The COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for the public will be shared with 211 and will be the basis to respond to caller questions.
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Website](#) - CDC has added resources to the COVID-19 website which includes information regarding COVID-19 vaccine recommendations, vaccine safety and monitoring and vaccine confidence.

COVID-19 Vaccine Assumptions

- **Vaccine Readiness**- CDC has asked all jurisdictions to be operationally ready to receive COVID-19 Vaccine by *November 15, 2020*.
- **Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program** - CDC is partnering with CVS and Walgreens to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The program provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process, including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements. Facility staff who have not received COVID-19 vaccine can also be vaccinated as part of the program. Information regarding the program can be found on the HAN Document Library, Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program folder.

If interested in participating, facilities should sign up (or opt out) immediately. **Sign up will close November 6, 2020.** Facilities will indicate which pharmacy partner they prefer to have on site. Online sign-up information will be distributed through ALF and SNF partner communication channels (email, social media, web).

- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) will make their selection through the [National Healthcare Safety Network](#) (NHSN). An “alert” will be incorporated into the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 module to guide users to the form.
- Assisted living facilities (ALFs) will make their selection via an online [REDCap](#) (<https://airc.cdc.gov/surveys/?s=R3TYTJDAW4>) sign-up form.

For questions about the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, please contact eoevent494@cdc.gov.

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations- Version 2.0** - CDC has released version 2.0 of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations. This update provides jurisdictions with the information needed to ensure readiness to implement COVID-19 vaccination programs and to meet the two overarching objectives: Reduce mortality, morbidity, and incidence of COVID-19 disease and help minimize disruption to society and the economy.

Among the changes are updates regarding the

- Pharmacy partnership for long-term care program
- Federal pharmacy partnerships program
- Vaccine implementation strategies for critical populations
- Vaccine planning scenarios

The playbook is posted to HAN and the Department's COVID-19 webpage, under the [Vaccine](#) tab.

- **Iowa COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy Working Draft** - This document was publicly released and posted to the [IDPH COVID-19 website](#) on 10/19/20. The document has also been posted to the HAN Document Library, Iowa COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy folder.
 - **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)** - Initial doses of COVID-19 vaccine may be authorized for use under an EUA issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), based upon available safety and efficacy data. Vaccine will be provided free of charge, but administration fees may not be reimbursable while a vaccine product is administered under an EUA.
 - **COVID-19 Vaccine Redistribution** - COVID-19 vaccines should be shipped to the HCP sites where it will be administered to limit the possibility of storage and handling issues. Due to minimum order quantities/increments and unique storage and handling requirements for some vaccines, the redistribution of COVID-19 vaccines will be acceptable. The follow are requirements for the redistribution of COVID-19 vaccine:
 - Redistribution will ONLY be allowed between IDPH approved COVID-19 vaccine providers
 - Provider organization should not plan to redistribute vaccine throughout the organization (e.g., hospitals redistributing to satellite locations)
 - During the initial vaccination phase when COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited, redistribution of vaccine will only be permitted within the same county
 - Redistribution will require prior approval by IDPH
 - Vaccine redistribution must be documented in IRIS by completing a vaccine transfer - see IRIS Instructions on HAN/web page
 - Receiving organization is required to document COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in IRIS
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VaccineFinder

- COVID-19 vaccination providers will report on hand inventory supply at least daily to VaccineFinder.
 - The provider dashboard on VaccineFinder supports manual entry of projected vaccine supply estimates. Providers may upload data for multiple sites. VaccineFinder will include an option to set up an automated data feed.
 - Optional: Providers may choose to make their location(s) visible on the public-facing website to increase access to vaccines once supply is available to the public. This does ***NOT*** replace reporting doses administered to IRIS within 24 hours of administration.
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Priority Groups

- The federal government will issue guidance on groups to prioritize for initial COVID-19 vaccination; populations for initial COVID-19 vaccination. Identify and estimate sizes of critical populations, with focus on first available doses of vaccine for these populations:
 - Critical workforce that provides healthcare and maintains essential functions of society (<https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>)
 - Staff and residents in long-term care and assisted living facilities

- A spreadsheet of Iowa specific priority groups has been placed in the Priority Populations folder on the HAN for LPHA planning purposes.

Immunization Registry Information System - IRIS

IRIS will be used for the allocation and documentation of all doses of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered. All COVID-19 vaccine doses administered must be documented in IRIS 24 hours after vaccine administration.

- **IRIS Enrollment** - IDPH plans to use the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) for the ordering, distribution of pandemic vaccines. Healthcare provider sites interested in offering pandemic vaccines, currently not enrolled in IRIS, should enroll at this time. To enroll in IRIS complete the following forms:
 - [Authorized Site Agreement - Organization](#) for the facility
 - [IRIS Authorized Individual User Agreement](#)

The completed Authorized Site Agreements for Organizations and Individual User Agreements can be emailed to IRISEnrollment@idph.iowa.gov or faxed to 800-831-6292.

- **IRIS** - IRIS instructions for LPHAs and IRIS users are available on the HAN and posted to the Department's COVID-19 webpage, under the [Vaccine](#) tab.
- **Vaccine Reminder and Recall** - Healthcare providers should consider methods to send vaccine reminders and recall to communicate with patients about the need for vaccination and the need to return for the second dose in the vaccine series. Reminder and recall activities may include auto dialers, text messaging or mailings (postcards or letters). IRIS reminder/recall postcards are available to order from the [Immunization Program web page](#).

Influenza Vaccination Resources

- CDC recently added a new section to the webpage [Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).
- The section, entitled *Additional Considerations for Influenza Vaccination of Persons in Healthcare Facilities and Congregate Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, provides recommendations specific for individuals living in supportive/congregate settings (such as long-term care facilities, group homes and shelters).
- General measures for COVID-19 infection prevention and control are included, along with vaccination recommendations for patients who have come in close contact with an individual with COVID-19, patients with asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic COVID-19, and patients with symptomatic COVID-19.
- Updates were also made related to vaccinating persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 or in quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure. The section, "Deferring Routine Vaccination Visits for Persons with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Who are In Isolation or Persons with A Known COVID-19 Exposure Who Are in Quarantine," recommends postponing all vaccination visits for the following individuals:
 - Asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic persons who have tested positive: 10 days from a positive test result

- Symptomatic persons: Met criteria to discontinue isolation; 10 days after symptom onset and 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and COVID-19 symptoms improving; and no longer moderately to severely ill
- Persons exposed to a person with COVID-19: After 14-day quarantine period has ended
- Other specific topics covered are considerations for routine vaccination, advice regarding vaccination of people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, infection prevention practices, personal protective equipment (PPE), and strategies for promoting catch-up immunizations. This guidance will be updated as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccination Program

- HHS is partnering with pharmacies to increase access to COVID-19 vaccine once a vaccine is authorized or approved and recommended for use.
- Through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19 Vaccination, select pharmacy partners will receive a direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Retail chain pharmacies and networks of community pharmacists are being considered for this program. As of October 26, the following pharmacy partners have signed on to participate in this program:
 - Walgreens
 - CVS Health Corporation
 - Walmart Stores, Inc (including Sam's)
 - Rite Aid Corp
 - The Kroger Co (i.e., Kroger, Harris Teeter, Fred Meyer, Frys, Ralphs, King Soopers, Smiths, City Market, Dillons, Marianos, Pick-n-Save, Copps, Metro Market)
 - Publix
 - Costco
 - Hy-Vee
 - Albertsons Companies (i.e., Osco, Jewel-Osco, Albertsons, Albertsons Market, Safeway, Tom Thumb, Star Market, Shaws, Haggen, Acme, Randalls, Carrs, Market Street, United, Vons, Pavilions, Amigos, Lucky's, Pak n Save, Sav-On)
 - Meijer
 - H-E-B
 - Retail Business Services (i.e., Food Lion, Giant Food, The Giant Company, Hannaford Bros Co, Stop & Shop)
- Store lists for each of these partners in Iowa will be shared with partners
- Pharmacy partners will sign the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement at the federal level.
- Pharmacy partners will directly order and receive allocation of COVID-19 vaccine from the federal government.
- Vaccine will be provided at no cost to the pharmacy chain and will be administered at retail locations at no cost to vaccine recipients.
- On a daily basis, pharmacy partners must report to CDC COVID-19 vaccine inventory in each store via VaccineFinder. Pharmacy providers are also required to report COVID-19 vaccine doses administration to IRIS.