



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

December 28, 2020

Dear Health System Partner,

December has been an exciting and historic month with the rollout of two vaccines to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful for your efforts throughout this challenging year and know you have worked diligently to stand up vaccine operations in your health systems. As you know, with limited doses of vaccine available, MDHHS has prioritized allocations and aligned with the CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

MDHHS has set an initial operational goal of vaccinating 70% of Michigan's population over age 16 by the end of 2021. As of December 27, over 278,000 vaccines had been shipped across the state, and over 59,000 had been administered. MDHHS recognizes the complexities and challenges of such a massive vaccination effort. We also know that the quicker vaccines are administered, the quicker people become immune, the more lives can be saved, and the sooner this pandemic can end.

MDHHS is now requesting the following:

- 1. All organizations that are currently receiving the vaccine should allow vaccination of any personnel identified within Phase 1A, including priority groups one, two, and three. Health systems can accelerate their planning to prioritize group one; however, if there are vaccine or appointment slots available, then individuals in the second and third priority groups can and should receive the vaccine now.**
- 2. At least 90% of the vaccine received in your facility should be administered within seven (7) calendar days of arrival.**

While the state is currently in Phase 1A of vaccinations, we anticipate needing hospital assistance in vaccinating populations in further groups. This may include assisting with vaccination clinics offsite (i.e., mobile clinics) or offering the vaccine to other qualified individuals that seek care within your facilities. As a reminder, the focus of Phase 1A is to vaccinate paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents in long-term care facilities. Phase 1A is broken into three priorities:

Priority One: Keep critical healthcare infrastructure open and functioning through vaccination of staff who perform direct patient care and work in critical areas.

Priority Two: Prevent outbreaks and protect residents in long-term care facilities.

Priority Three: Keep necessary healthcare infrastructure functioning (outside of hospitals).

Detailed information is available in the *Michigan COVID-19 Vaccination Interim Prioritization Guidance*, located at www.michigan.gov/covidvaccine.

With vaccine supply limited at this time, MDHHS will be monitoring the number of vaccinations as recorded in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) and compare with those delivered at each site based on weekly allocations. This monitoring will identify those organizations that are unable to meet the benchmark of 90% of vaccine administered within seven (7) calendar days of receipt. In addition, the requirement to **report inventory on hand each day into Vaccine Finder** is critical to reflect available vaccine. Those organizations unable to meet these two benchmarks may experience modifications of future first dose vaccine allocations.

We all share the same goal of ending this pandemic as quickly as possible. Should your organization have questions or need staffing support to assist with accelerating vaccine administration, please communicate that request to MDHHS via the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC) at checcdeptcoor@michigan.gov. The Michigan National Guard and other resources may be available to assist with your vaccination efforts.

Michigan National Guard COVID Vaccination Teams are available to be scheduled for up to six (6) visits (three (3) first dose and three (3) second dose events), 10 hours per day, to reconstitute and administer vaccine, monitor individuals after administration, and enter data into MCIR under the requesting facility's site ID. *If you anticipate challenges meeting operational expectations for vaccine administration of 90% within seven (7) days, please inquire about Michigan National Guard assistance.* Hospital facility requests for assistance may be submitted in writing via email to your Regional Healthcare Coalition. Requests should include: Point of contact name, dates/times requested for support, anticipated number of doses to be administered per event, type(s) of support requested, and facility type and/or number of locations. Facilities will be contacted directly by a member of the Michigan National Guard to schedule events.

MDHHS is committed to working with you to support your vaccination efforts and we are grateful for your leadership throughout this pandemic. MDHHS Immunizations Director Bob Swanson and I will be joining a call with your Chief Medical Officers on Wednesday, December 30 at 7 am to discuss planning efforts and to answer any questions. We look forward to continuing to work together.

Sincerely,



Joneigh S. Khaldun, MD, MPH, FACEP
Chief Medical Executive
Chief Deputy Director for Health

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