

**From:** Delaware Health Alert Network

**Re:** Delaware Health Alert #435 - Medical Provider COVID-19 Vaccination Capacity Survey

**Message:**

## **Summary**

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is preparing for implementing the anticipated Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) vaccine when it becomes available. To that end, DPH is compiling a list of medical providers willing and able to become COVID-19 vaccinators. This survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGD8DDT>) will assess your capacity to store and handle the COVID-19 vaccines as well as the number of staff and patients in your practice who may need to be vaccinated. Providers who meet the standards for vaccine storage and handling, and have the patient and staff load to warrant becoming a vaccinator will be contacted for a follow-up call and site visit by DPH staff.

## **Background**

Several COVID-19 vaccine candidates are in development and clinical trials are being conducted simultaneously with large scale manufacturing. At this time, it is not known which vaccines will be approved. For planning purposes, DPH is working under the following assumptions:

- Limited COVID-19 vaccine doses may be available by early November 2020, but COVID-19 vaccine supply will increase substantially in 2021.
- Initially available COVID-19 vaccines will either be approved as licensed vaccines or authorized for use under an Emergency Use Authorization issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- Cold chain storage and handling requirements for each COVID-19 vaccine product will vary from refrigerated (2 degrees C to 8 degrees C) to frozen (-20 degrees C) to ultra-cold (-60 degrees C to -80 degrees C) temperatures, and ongoing stability testing may impact these requirements.
- For most vaccines, two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, separated by either more than 21 or more than 28 days, will be needed for immunity, and second-dose reminders for patients will be necessary. Both doses will need to match each other (i.e., be the same vaccine product).
- Some COVID-19 vaccine products will likely require reconstitution with diluent or adjuvant at the point of administration.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation:**

- The federal government will issue guidance on groups to prioritize for initial COVID-19 vaccination.
- Allocations will likely shift during the response based on supply, demand, and risk categorization.

## **Recommendations**

If you would like to become a COVID-19 vaccinator, complete and submit the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGD8DDT>. Participation in the survey is voluntary and confidential and you have the option to decline completing the questionnaire for any reason. All information obtained from the survey will be held in strict confidence and unless otherwise required by law, access to the survey will be limited to DPH officials.

Participating in this study may help you gain insight into your practice vaccine storage and handling capacity and the vaccine needs of your patients and staff. Other health care providers who serve populations at risk for COVID-19 but are unable to offer the vaccine, may benefit if you choose to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider.

If you have any questions about this survey, contact the Delaware Division of Public Health, Immunization Program at 302-744-1060 or 1-800-282-8672.

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### **HAN Message Types**

**Health Alert:** provides vital, time-sensitive information for a specific incident or situation; warrants immediate action or attention by health officials, laboratorians, clinicians, and members of the public; and conveys the highest level of importance.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; contains recommendations or actionable items to be performed by public health officials, laboratorians, and/or clinicians; may not require immediate action.

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**Info Service:** provides general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**Agency Abbreviation:** DE

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Thank you,  
Delaware Health Alert Network