

Overview of Vaccine Distribution in Waukesha County

This document provides an overview of vaccine distribution plans as of December 17, 2020, as well as Waukesha County's role in the process.

Waukesha County is coordinating with a State strategy for vaccine distribution. At this time, our role in the vaccine distribution process is to serve as a logistical community partner while designated healthcare facilities and [pharmacies](#) vaccinate early recipients who are considered high-risk for COVID-19.

Waukesha County's goal is to help ensure that testing continues to be available in the community and to develop a plan to deliver vaccine in future Phases. The County continues to advise all county residents to keep following COVID-19 safe practices to reduce the spread of the virus in our community. Several Waukesha County healthcare providers currently have access to the vaccine and will begin vaccinating their staff and other 1A individuals soon.

Vaccine distribution will occur nationally in three phases:

- **Phase 1 (Current Phase): Limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses available**
 - Concentrate on reaching critical populations.
 - Early distribution will occur in three distinct phases: 1A (current phase), 1B and 1C.
- **Phase 2: Larger number of vaccine doses available**
 - Focus on ensuring access to vaccine for all critical populations who were not vaccinated in Phase 1, as well as for the general population; expand provider network.
- **Phase 3: Sufficient supply of vaccine doses for entire population (surplus of doses)**
 - Focus on ensuring equitable vaccination access across the entire population. Monitor vaccine uptake and coverage; reassess strategy to increase uptake in populations or communities with low coverage.

Wisconsin is expected to have access to [vaccines](#) from two different manufacturers before the end of the month: [Pfizer](#) and Moderna. Both vaccines will require two doses to be effective. Initial vaccine allocations will be for the first dose only.

- This week, Wisconsin state health officials are expecting the arrival of 49,725 doses of the FDA approved Pfizer vaccine. The CDC has an equal number of doses reserved to complete the second inoculation.
- Another vaccine developed by Moderna is scheduled to be reviewed by the FDA on December 17. If the FDA approves the Moderna vaccine, Wisconsin will receive 101,000 COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna next week. Additional shipments will be made once supply becomes available.

How will the vaccine be stored and distributed?

Healthcare facilities and nationally designated pharmacies, such as CVS and Walgreens, will distribute the vaccine to Phase 1A recipients. Currently, Waukesha County's role in the vaccine distribution process is through helping the state identify early phase gaps. It is too early to identify if or when Waukesha County Public Health will coordinate large-scale community vaccination clinics during future phases. The County currently has no pre-registration or pre-ordering process in place for the public.

Eight hubs in Wisconsin are receiving initial doses of the Pfizer vaccine and dividing the product to providers. These regional locations were chosen for their unique abilities to store, monitor, and handle vaccines in ultra-cold temperatures as well as their willingness to redistribute COVID-19 vaccine to other providers in their regions. The Moderna vaccine is easier to store and will ship directly to vaccinators.

How COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations are Made

The [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#), a national group of medical and public health experts, develops recommendations for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States. Each state is required to operationalize the distribution.

In Wisconsin, the [State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee \(SDMAC\)](#) uses these, and other national recommendations, to develop ethical medical policies during declared disaster or public health emergencies for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Waukesha County participates in multiple weekly meetings with DHS related to vaccine logistics planning.

The SDMAC recently determined that in Wisconsin Phase 1A recipients will include frontline health care workers and long-term care residents. Other decisions regarding vaccine distribution have yet to be made, but are addressed in two documents open for public comment at the moment:

- [Phase 1A Choosing Between Vaccinators](#)
- [Distribution of Multiple Dose Series](#)

Who will get the Vaccine First?

Due to the limited supply of available vaccine, vaccines will be distributed in phases to high-risk individuals. Early vaccination is occurring in three distinct phases: 1A, 1B and 1C. While Phase 1A has been defined, Phases 1B and 1C are currently under review and will be open to public comment.

- **Phase 1A:** Frontline health care workers and long-term care residents and staff.
- **Phase 1B:** Essential workers. The definition and further guidance regarding sub-prioritization of essential workers have not yet been clarified by SDMAC. It is likely the definition of essential workers will be more restricted than was identified in the Wisconsin DHS Emergency Order #12, issued in March. Current CDC guidance references workers in essential and critical industries, as defined by the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency](#).
- **Phase 1C:** Adults over 65 years old and those with underlying medical conditions. Early vaccine access is critical to ensuring the health and safety of this population that is disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

More information about how the CDC is making COVID-19 vaccine recommendations is available [here](#).

How the state is coordinating other vaccination services

Wisconsin DHS is retaining vendor services for coordination of Stakeholder Engagement; Administration, Oversight, Supplies and Distribution, and Mass Vaccination. Logistics will be further defined as State vendor(s) are retained and additional coordination discussions occur.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Focuses on person-to-person campaigning to increase vaccine uptake, with the goal of reaching populations that are less likely to receive vaccines and/or have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- **Administration, Oversight, Supplies and Distribution:** Focuses on provision of COVID-19 vaccination management services as the State transitions from initial Phase 1 and Phase 2 vaccine administration planning and logistics to implementation.
- **Mass Vaccination:** Focuses on conducting healthcare and community-based vaccination in the event existing healthcare providers are unable to deliver the vaccine without assistance, as well as newly established community-based clinics and mass vaccination clinics which will be held for the general public when the vaccine is widely available.

When will more information be available?

Waukesha County is working with DHS and local healthcare providers to find out more information as soon as it is available. More information will be available in January, including resources at www.waukeshacounty.gov.