



RIDOH Provider Advisory

January 11, 2021

COVID-19 Update for Dental Healthcare Personnel No. 16

Dental Providers and staff can get vaccinated in Phase 1 of Rhode Island's COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has taken multiple complex factors into consideration in prioritizing populations to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, including but not limited to expert guidance, safety, and equity concerns. We have leveraged recommendations from the CDC and FDA and considered high-risk populations, while keeping Rhode Island's unique population needs in mind.

Please note that within the overall group prioritized to receive COVID-19 vaccine during Phase 1 of Rhode Island's vaccination program, there will likely be overlap among the individual priority groups as we receive and roll out additional doses of vaccine. None of the sub-phases will occur alone; we expect that in most weeks, as vaccine becomes available, more groups will be contacted with information on how and where they will be able to get vaccinated. The timeline for implementation is highly dependent on the federal timeline for the release of doses of vaccine, which hinges on the vaccine manufacturers' production rates, as well as uptake rates in the provider community. With that in mind, we are unable to provide an accurate prediction of when any specific group will be offered vaccine more than a week in advance, in most cases.

Due to specific transportation, storage, and administration protocols of the COVID-19 vaccines, most dental practices will need to send all staff to be vaccinated at a centralized mass vaccination site. At this time, planning of the process has already started in coordination with the Rhode Island Dental Association (RIDA). Membership in the dental association is not required to participate. As soon as we are aware of the amount of vaccine available, PrepMod, an online sign-up system, will be available over a two-week period for you to register for your vaccination. You will receive an opportunity to begin signing up for a vaccination by the end of January. **RIDOH currently estimates that Dental Providers and staff will start being vaccinated in the first week of February with sign-up anticipated January 25. Please watch for a Dental Provider Call to be scheduled the week of January 18 to review the sign-up process and answer additional questions related to vaccines.**

Additionally, municipal partners are now undertaking efforts to provide vaccination to EMT, firefighters, home health and hospice workers, and law enforcement in their community. Municipalities with extended capacity may reach out to additional Phase I populations, including dental providers, which may provide an alternative opportunity for vaccination. These municipal-run clinics are scheduled to close on January 12.

Dental providers can keep up-to-date regarding vaccination by reviewing the State's COVID-19 website for the [general public](#) and [for healthcare providers](#). For additional information, visit the COVID-19 page [Information for Dental Providers](#).

RIDOH is presenting this statement in collaboration with RIDA and questions can be directed to either organization.

Rhode Island healthcare providers

Copyright (C) 2020 Rhode Island Department of Health. All rights reserved.