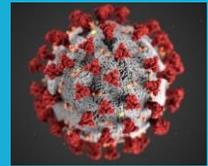




The following document is for historical purposes and is no longer being updated. Please go to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical & Professional Resources](#) for more recent information.



AMERICAN SAMOA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



Executive Summary

The American Samoa Government is prepared to ensure the best is provided for its people. Although it continues to enforce stern restrictions to veer off any infection, exposure or spread of the COVID 19 virus, it remains alert in many objectives of the disease. One important component for American Samoa is the establishing of the COVID 19 Vaccination Program. This will assist in preventing infections, further spread, sustain infrastructure and mitigate impact to the economy and the functioning of society. Comprehensive collaboration and planning from all providers, stakeholders and public and private sectors will be required. All levels of the government share a great responsibility in assisting all agencies in developing individual organization guidance for their pandemic planning and preparedness. American Samoa is COVID Free as we prepare for the vaccine arrival.

COVID-19 Organizational Structure and Partner Involvement

Department of Health has primary responsibility to lead and coordinate the Territory-wide response to COVID 19 Pandemic. However, American Samoa Government departments and agencies, and private sector partners, undertake a series of actions in support of Territory pandemic influenza preparedness goals. All levels of the government share a great responsibility in assisting all agencies in developing individual organization guidance for their pandemic planning and preparedness. This collaboration will be required.

Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

American Samoa will follow a phased approach recommended by CDC as vaccine supply will be limited. Critical populations such as Healthcare personnel (paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials) and Non-healthcare essential workers. Phase 2 will include the Adults with high-risk medical conditions who possess risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness, people 65 years of age and older (including those living in Long term Healthcare Facilities) and our general population inclusive of school age children, daycare population and those from Phase 1 who were not vaccinated. Phase 3 invites everybody or the general population to get vaccinated.

Critical Populations

American Samoa have selected critical populations to be prioritized according to vaccine recommendations and the impact of the COVID 19 virus. Healthcare workers, people with high risk medical conditions, those who are living in LTHC facilities, 65 years old population, and 17 critical infrastructure sectors who have been identified as priority groups.

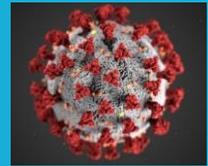
Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

American Samoa will provide COVID 19 Vaccine through enrolled Vaccine providers. There will be 6 from the DOH public health clinics, and 1 from the local hospital.

Understanding a Jurisdiction's COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Capacity

The capacity for American Samoa depends solely on the collaboration of all territorial healthcare workforce. It is recommended that all district level clinics for Department of Health will be accessible and one outlet from within the local hospital. Mobile Teams will benefit the targeted critical workforce. American Samoa

AMERICAN SAMOA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



Department of Health will consider factors in ensuring capacity is enhanced or changed such as staff availability, storage and handling capacity and or environmental factors.

COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation, Ordering, Distribution, and Inventory Management

American Samoa Department of Health's Immunization Program continues to operate a vaccine management system with CDC that ensures prompt vaccine allocation, ordering and distribution. The Immunization Program Manager takes the lead in ensuring goals and objectives will be met across all critical population as vaccine supply is allocated.

COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

American Samoa Department of Health maintains 2 centrally located main depot to supply all district health centers. Health centers also have cold storage units to maintain 2-8 degree Celsius temperatures and freezer capacity up to -50 degree Celsius. American Samoa does not have Ultra Cold storage but all providers will be educated and trained on cold chain requirements for the COVID 19 vaccine as it arrives. Cold Chain monitoring devices are also required to maintain the efficacy and integrity of the vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Documentation and Reporting

American Samoa utilizes a vaccine administration record to collect and document IIS data onto the WebTamaIZ (WTIR) registry. All providers are required to use this form to ensure data is reported within 24 hours into the registry regardless of the setting. MOUs are in place to ensure WTIR registry aligns with CDC IZ Gateway for the exchange of data between American Samoa and CDC.

COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders

As the COVID 19 vaccine requires a second dose, the providers will ensure all patients are called as it is routine in the clinics. A new system will be developed to ensure texting, messaging or emails are in place to increase second dose coverage. Radio announcements will be aired to remind parents of their children to received the 2nd dose for better protection. This will require the assistance of partnering agencies such as the Department of Human & Social Services and the Department of Education.

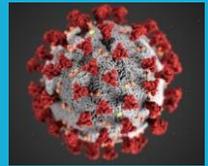
COVID-19 Requirements for Immunization Information Systems or Other External Systems

Data Use Agreements and MOUs are critical for the WTIR Immunization Registry. American Samoa is working closely to ensure all systems are aligned with CDC requirements for the exchange of data. WTIR will be moving to a cloud based environment before the arrival of the COVID 19 vaccine, in this way it meets all the requirements of IIS systems that impacts the efforts for the COVID 19 response.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

American Samoa Department of Health has a Public Relations Group that which ensures all vaccine information and recommendations are disseminated to the community. The local hospital designated person, epidemiologist, media officer and the Medical Director and all stakeholders. All educational materials will be translated to meet needs of the community. The goal is to increase vaccine uptake to ensure high coverage and less vaccine hesitancy in order to protect our people.

AMERICAN SAMOA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



Regulatory Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination

A Emergency Use Agreement will be required to ensure that the COVID 19 vaccine is safe for administration. American Samoa will ensure that the authorized information will be communicated to the public. A vaccine information sheet (VIS) will be disseminated to anyone before the administration of the vaccine, as it is required by the federal.

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

A Safety Officer has been designated for the monitoring of the COVID 19 Vaccine. This will be the Immunization Program Manager and her responsibility involves heavily in making people aware of the importance of reporting, and where to report. The Epidemiologist also plays a role in the reporting system called Epi-X. In addition, Situational Awareness will be critical to ensure the community are informed and being educated on a weekly basis. The more public announcements, the more providers adhere to CDC's recommendations.

American Samoa will continue to set high expectations to ensure the people of American Samoa receives the **best protection throughout** the COVID19 Pandemic