Executive Summary - DRAFT

10/22/2020

Introduction
The purpose of the Guam COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is to provide an operational plan that will support the Territory’s efforts to implement a vaccination program to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths and to help restore societal functioning. This plan provides operational and logistical guidance to the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) Immunization Program for planning and coordinating a COVID-19 vaccination effort to effectively request, secure, receive, store, stage, distribute, dispense, and recover vaccines. It describes the concept of operations for this effort and identifies anticipated roles and responsibilities for organizations.

COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Sections:

Section 3: Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Phase 1: Potentially Limited Doses Available
During phase 1, DPHSS will establish a Vaccine and Antiviral Prioritization Policy Committee (VAPPC) in determining critical populations on advisement and recommendations from the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The committee will ensure that selected vaccination locations are able to support the department’s efforts to vaccinate identified critical populations, manage cold chain requirements, and meet detailed reporting requirements as mandated by CDC. A closed Point of Dispensing (POD) Outreach will be implemented in this phase.

Phase 2: Large Number of Doses Available, Supply Likely to Meet Demand
Phase 2 will involve giving vaccines to individuals that were not immunized during phase 1 and open to the next group of specific populations which include: persons at increased risk for severe illness; persons at increased risk of acquiring or transmitting COVID-19; and persons with limited access to vaccinations. This phase will involve the deployment of mass vaccination clinics (MVCs) and the procurement of community vaccinator services.

Phase 3: Likely Sufficient Supply, Slowing Demand
Phase 3 is considered the catch-up phase: open to the general public. The Immunization Program will continue to work with providers, contract vaccinators, partners, commercial and private entities, and organizations to widely extend and expand immunizations to all populations.

Section 4: Critical Populations
The VAPPC will define how a priority group can apply on a local level and will identify critical workforce and high-risk populations as defined by CDC. Prioritization, extension, or other modification of these recommendations for the benefit of the people of Guam will be addressed by the VAPPC, who in turn will forward recommendations to the Director of DPHSS.
Section 5: COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment
The Immunization Program will distribute CDC Provider Enrollment and Provider Profile forms to traditional settings (medical clinics, hospitals, behavioral centers, renal clinics, and pharmacies) and non-traditional settings (procurement of community vaccinator services). DPHSS credentialing will be performed on providers that enroll into the program.

Section 8: COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling
Given the challenging storage, handling, and administration requirements for Vaccine A: Ultra-Low temps vaccine, DPHSS will continue to follow guidance of this product as instructed by CDC. Even with the limitations of this product, DPHSS will focus on reaching critical populations with as much throughput as possible. Currently, DPHSS possesses two pharmaceutical-grade refrigerators and one freezer which meet the current storage requirements of the remaining two COVID-19 products (Vaccine B: Frozen -13° F and +5° F and Vaccine C: Refrigerate 36° F - 46° F). These units currently house routine childhood, adult and seasonal Influenza vaccines. To ensure DPHSS does not compromise storage and handling of these routine vaccines and to increase storage capacity, DPHSS will procure additional pharmaceutical/medical-grade cold chain units.

Section 10: COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders
The DPHSS will follow the ACIP second dose and interchangeability recommendations. Any system that is currently working for a provider in reminding patients of their appointment should be incorporated for COVID-19 second dose vaccination. Reminder recalls, appointment cards, confirmation calls, and text messaging/emails are options for second dose reminders.

Section 12: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication
The Immunization Program will work with internal DPHSS partners [Public Information Officer, Education & Community Health Outreach (ECHO) Team, and Liaison Officer] and the Joint Information Center (JIC) at Guam Homeland Security/ Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD). The JIC is responsible for Emergency Public Information and Warning. All public messaging will be coordinated through the JIC at GHS/OCD.

Section 14: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring
The DPHSS will encourage providers to access CDC’s extensive website on COVID-19 that details an array of vaccine safety systems for providers, general public, members of the military, and veterans. Providers will be given information and instructions on the requirement to report any clinically important adverse event following COVID-19 vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

Section 15: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring
DPHSS will utilize CDC’s systems (Immunization Data Lake Portal, VTrckS, IZ Gateway Connect) along with the Guam Immunization Information System (GuWebIZ) for reporting requirements of provider enrollment, 24-hour vaccine administration, vaccine allocation, ordering and distribution, 2-dose reminders, vaccination coverage, provider-level data reporting and local-level situational awareness reports.