



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

**SECRETARIAL DIRECTIVE ON ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE
COVID-19 VACCINES**

March 17, 2021

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that “[v]accines are an important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic,”¹ and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has considered evidence related to SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology, vaccination program implementation, and ethical principles in developing the interim recommendation for allocation of COVID-19 vaccine.²

CDC has noted that, with limited supply, identifying priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination is critical for implementation planning using a phased approach.³ To that end, the ACIP recommendations for phased allocation have provided guidance for federal, state, and local jurisdictions while vaccine supply is limited.⁴

However, given substantial increases in the supply of vaccines, it is appropriate to transition beyond priority groups and allow broad eligibility for receipt of COVID-19 vaccines consistent with applicable Emergency Use Authorizations.

Accordingly, the Secretary of Health and Human Services hereby DIRECTS as follows:

As of May 1, 2021, all COVID-19 vaccination providers are directed and required to make available and administer COVID-19 vaccine to all persons eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine consistent with the applicable Emergency Use Authorizations for such products.

This Directive must be implemented by designated enrolled providers in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program as specified in updated CDC Prioritization requirements posted at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html>.

This Directive also applies to all awardees and recipients of HHS grant and cooperative agreement funds, including grants to states and U.S. territories that have been awarded to support, implement, and expand COVID-19 vaccination programs nationwide. This Directive replaces or supersedes any contrary direction from HHS and CDC, including the *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations (Playbook)* guidance

¹ See CDC, *Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#vaccination>.)

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ See CDC, *The Advisory on Immunization Practices' Updated Interim Recommendation for Allocation of COVID-19—United States, December 2020* (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm695152e2.htm>)

document and prior directives from the HHS Secretary related to vaccine distribution prioritization, as well as supplements and addenda to the Playbook. In addition, this Directive supersedes any prior workplan, application, jurisdiction vaccination plan, or any other submission from an awardee or recipient to CDC that conflicts with this Directive.

I thank you for your attention to this matter, as well as for your efforts in the COVID-19 response.

Norris Cochran
Acting Secretary