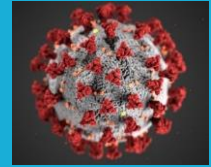


NEBRASKA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN Executive Summary



October 26, 2020

Introduction

The purpose of the COVID-19 Vaccine Plan is to assist partners in a shared understanding of pandemic response that includes planning assumptions, roles and responsibilities, ordering and reporting, and mass vaccination tools for local providers to substantially reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19.

The scope of this plan is limited to the distribution and dispensing of COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies to all Nebraskans through vaccine supplied by the federal government to include tribal nations located in the state (unless otherwise directed by federal guidance).

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in March of 2020. COVID-19 vaccine research and development also began in March 2020. Thoughtful allocation of COVID-19 vaccines will be critical to prevent morbidity and mortality and reduce the impact of COVID-19 on society. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) Immunization Program will work with various providers, traditional and nontraditional, to explore training opportunities, set goals, evaluate vaccination exercise experiences, and provide collective collaboration that is solution-oriented. However, the Immunization Program will continue to update and improve the plan on an on-going basis to ensure that Nebraskans are the recipients of the most current, efficient, and effective services.

COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Sections:

Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Nebraska is planning a phased approach to COVID-19 Vaccination distribution. During Phase 1, vaccines will only be available for Phase 1 providers to order and receive, and only Phase 1 target populations will receive vaccination. Nebraska is additionally breaking Phase 1 into two sections, Phase 1a and Phase 1b, providing even greater separation between target populations to ensure that initial doses are given to critical portions of the population. Phase 2 assumes a larger availability of vaccine, likely sufficient to meet demand, and requires expansion of the provider network to vaccinate a larger portion of the population. Finally, Phase 3 represents a shift towards ongoing vaccination where there is open access to the product via the more traditional network of vaccination.

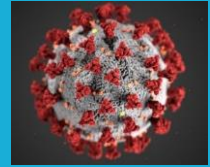
Critical Populations

During Phase 1, the vaccine will be distributed to priority populations as determined by risk of exposure, risk of severe illness, and risk of spreading illness to others. Phase 1a will focus on administering vaccines to healthcare personnel in hospitals, emergency rooms, Long-Term Care (LTC) Staff, urgent care and primary care access points who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. Phase 1b will focus on vaccinating individuals 65 years and older, individuals with certain underlying medical conditions, individuals residing in LTC-nursing homes, assisted living, independent living, and skilled nursing, individuals working in essential critical infrastructure, and other individuals in vulnerable and congregate populations.

COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

To receive and administer COVID-19 vaccine and ancillary supplies, vaccination providers must enroll in the United States Government (USG) COVID-19 vaccination program, coordinated through Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) Immunization Program, by signing and agreeing to conditions outlined in

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the *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement*. NDHHS will continue provider recruitment and enrollment as the vaccine supply increases.

COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

COVID-19 vaccine products will be temperature-sensitive and storage and handling practices are critical to minimize vaccine loss and limit risk of reduced effectiveness. Providers are expected to be familiar with CDC's *Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit*. Expected cold chain storage and handling requirements are: refrigerated (2°C to 8°C), frozen (-15 to -25°C), and ultra-cold (-60°C to -80°C). For proper storage and handling practices to be successful, three elements must be in place: well trained staff, reliable storage and temperature monitoring equipment, and accurate vaccine inventory management. To ensure appropriate training and reference materials, NDHHS will make the *Guidance for Planning Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations* as well as *Vaccination Guidance during a Pandemic* available to enrolled providers.

COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Documentation, Reporting, Systems- Reminder/Recall

Two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, separated by 3-4 weeks, will be needed for immunity. Both doses will need to be with the same product, which will require strategies to ensure the correct match of COVID-19 vaccine products and dosing intervals. Second-dose reminders for patients from providers will be necessary.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services will continue to clearly and effectively communicate COVID-19 vaccine messaging as it becomes available. Objectives of communications include educating the public and reaching key audiences. Messaging should focus on vaccine availability and safety as well as addressing myths, hesitancy, and mistrust. Communications will also be transparent, evidence based, and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

Adverse events will be reported by individuals and providers through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Adverse events will also be monitored through electronic health record (EHR)-and claims-based systems or <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/vsd/index.html>. NDHHS will ensure that providers are aware of and agree to use the VAERS, by posting links on the website and including in training materials. Continual adverse reaction support and education will be provided to providers, throughout COVID-19 vaccination phases, as well as frequent program website updates when made available.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring

Nebraska will use a dashboard to monitor and report out progress in COVID-19 Vaccination Program implementation and vaccine coverage rates at various levels across NE to both internal and external partners. Additionally, resources will be posted online – a provider specific page that will include COVID-19 specific resources as well as a page for the public containing more general information (<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>). Nebraska will continue to utilize the existing COVID-19 Information Line (phone: (402) 552-6645, Toll Free (833) 998-2275) at least initially to ensure that Nebraskans have a way to get accurate, reliable information regarding COVID-19 vaccination services across the state.