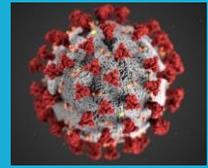


# NEVADA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



## Executive Summary - DRAFT

October 26, 2020

### Introduction

Immunization with a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is a critical component of the strategy to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths and to help restore societal functioning. The goal of the State of Nevada is to have enough COVID-19 vaccine for all people who wish to be vaccinated. Early on, there may be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine, and vaccination efforts may focus on those who are critical to the COVID-19 pandemic response, providing direct care, and maintaining societal function, as well as those at highest risk for developing severe illness. This document serves as the Playbook for Nevada, statewide local public health programs, and related public health and emergency management partners on how the state has planned and will operationalize a vaccination response to COVID-19, including how Nevada will order, store, distribute, track, promote, and administer the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Sections:

#### Section 3: Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Nevada's COVID-19 Vaccination Playbook is divided into population-based high-risk Tiers. Dependent upon federal guidance, the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) intends to distribute the state's initial vaccine allocation to counties to cover the critical infrastructure workforce. If Nevada receives a large enough vaccine allocation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), then the vaccine allocation to each county is intended to be enough to immunize the Tier 1 group in the region to at least 80% coverage.<sup>1</sup> One exception is made for General Medicine and Surgical Hospitals in which the goal is 100% coverage.

#### Section 4: Critical Populations

Since COVID-19 vaccine will be limited at the beginning of the response, Nevada has developed a tiered priority decision support tool to guide the state's COVID-19 vaccination strategy. The Nevada COVID-19 Vaccination Program Tiers were designed to mitigate as much death and disease to the general population. Priority for limited vaccine supply will be given to those who are put at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to their daily occupational hazards and to those who keep all Nevadans safe by maintaining health, security, law and order, and critical infrastructure for safe living. The proposed Tiered structure ensures those who have an underlying health condition who work in a listed occupation and are unable to work from home, cannot maintain social distancing due to job duties, and therefore have more exposure and a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 will be vaccinated as one of the initial priority populations.

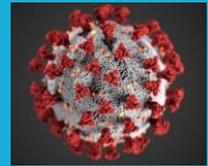
#### Section 5: COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

NSIP is focused on engaging vaccination providers and services which can rapidly vaccinate the Tier 1 and 2 Critical Infrastructure Workforce as soon as a COVID-19 vaccine is available in Phase 1. Throughout Phases 1 and 2, NSIP will work to recruit and enroll enough providers to vaccinate the Tier 3 critical populations and eventually all Nevadans who desire a COVID-19 vaccine. To date, NSIP has received

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<sup>1</sup> 80% coverage is the planning assumption for pandemic influenza; a herd immunity coverage level for a COVID-19 vaccine is not known at this time. NSIP will continue to use the 80% coverage standard until further guidance is issued.

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more than 4,000 responses from providers interested in being COVID-19 vaccine providers. NSIP staff are prioritizing enrollment for acute care hospitals and providers who have responded and provided their contact information.

## Section 8: COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

All COVID-19 vaccine within NSIP responsibility will be ordered, managed, and distributed via NV WebIZ/VTrckS through the centralized distributor McKesson or other centralized distribution partner selected by CDC. Some of the first vaccine product expected to be allocated and distributed to states will need ultra-cold chain management. CDC plans to ship this vaccine in containers allowing storage of the vaccine for up to ten additional days after it arrives on site. NSIP has identified ultra-cold freezers in Reno, Elko, and Las Vegas as backup storage facilities as well as locations from which to purchase dry ice if the shipping container needs to be refilled when it arrives in Nevada.

## Section 10: COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders

For most COVID-19 vaccine products, two doses of vaccine will be needed. Because different COVID-19 vaccine products will not be interchangeable, a vaccine recipient's second dose must be from the same manufacturer as their first dose. Second-dose reminders for vaccine recipients will be critical to ensure compliance with vaccine dosing intervals and achieve optimal vaccine effectiveness. COVID-19 vaccination providers should make every attempt to schedule a patient's second-dose appointment when they get their first dose. NV WebIZ is a very useful tool for centralized reminder/recall efforts conducted by NSIP. NSIP is also investing in software to enable automated patient phone calls ("robocalls"), emails, and SMS text message reminders.

## Section 12: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

Using risk communication principles along with the CDC's recently developed [Vaccinate with Confidence](#) framework, NSIP and partners will develop and implement timely, evolving plans as the foundation for the state's overall COVID-19 vaccination communication efforts. Adopting innovative methods to reach minority and vulnerable communities will help ensure high vaccine uptake among high-risk and disproportionately impacted communities. NSIP is developing vaccine confidence messaging in collaboration with Nevada's Joint Information Center (JIC). A coordinated vaccine communications approach will be adopted by partners statewide in cooperation with the JIC. NSIP will act as the liaison bringing partners to the JIC for input and message distribution.

## Section 14: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

Per the CDC, COVID-19 vaccination providers are required to report adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination and should report clinically important adverse events even if they are not sure if the vaccination caused the event. Vaccine manufacturers are also required to report to VAERS all adverse events that come to their attention. NSIP will ensure enrolled COVID-19 vaccination providers understand the procedures for and importance of reporting adverse events to VAERS.

## Section 15: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring

Continuous monitoring for situational awareness throughout the COVID-19 Vaccination Program is crucial for a successful outcome. NSIP has established procedures for monitoring various critical program planning and implementation elements, including performance targets, resources, staffing, and activities. NSIP will regularly monitor program resources to avoid unexpected obstacles to the progress of Nevada's COVID-19 Vaccination Program.