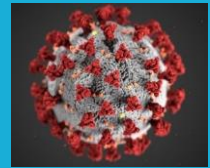


# Puerto Rico INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



## Executive Summary - DRAFT

16 October 2020

### Introduction

The Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDoH) COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is an Annex of Puerto Rico Pandemic Preparedness Plan. The primary purpose of this plan is to establish the strategy to reduce COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths and to help restore societal functioning. The strategic and implementation has been delegated to the Under-Secretary of Health which has already established direct communications with top officials, external organizations and community partners. Both, internal and external committees have been appointed and execution planning will start as early as next week. The PR the Immunization Program Director to establish the organization and operational procedures for a rapid and organized response of the components of the vaccination system in Puerto Rico.

### COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Sections:

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

PRDoH Phase 1 initial intervention planning and strategies targeted to each priority group (Phase 1A and 1B) include a combination of, on site immunization for hospital personnel (also is the preferred method for other organizations), and vaccination via private sector vaccinators, mobile vaccination providers and public health sponsored clinics. Agreements (MOU/MOA) will be enabled to allow maximum throughput of vaccinated individuals while maintaining social distancing and other infection control procedures.

#### Section 4: Critical Populations

PRDoH Senior leadership first planning priority is to identify and estimate the critical populations within the jurisdiction, as well as identify the organizations that can provide the information. The Under Secretary of Health tasked PRDoH's internal COVID-19 Vaccination Planning Team to estimate critical populations. Recent estimates of adult population target in Phase 1 and 2 combined may exceed 1.5 million residents, this data needs to be confirmed.

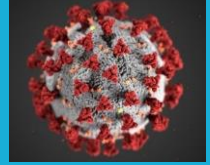
#### Section 5: COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

During the initial phase, the PR Immunization Program delegated the VFC Coordinator (early October) with the task to disseminate COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment. The purpose is to enroll and onboard Phase 1 providers as quickly as possible with a target date of October 31, 2020. A total of 66 hospitals were identified to administer the first available COVID-19 vaccine doses specifically for Phase 1. PRDoH may waive specific state vaccine provider enrollment, but meeting similar CDC VFC requirements to expedite and increase providers enrollment.

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

PR Immunization Program ICS structure will hire a dedicated COVID-19 vaccine management specialist and a dedicated Vaccine Manager with specific responsibility for provider's storage and handling compliance in order to obtain approval to administer vaccines. A present, there is a network of 61 vetted regional storage centers with transportation capabilities and loaner equipment that could be activated to support planned/unplanned vaccine redistribution.

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

PRDoH primary method for second dose reminder recall and text message will be thru PR IIS. About 50% of vaccine providers (pharmacies and healthcare systems) in PR have their own systems for patient notifications and reminders, some using functionality within their electronic health record (EHR) systems.

## Section 12: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

The PR Immunization Program in coordination with Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response and the PRDoH Communication Office, will have overall responsibilities to oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of the communications plan. All communications will be coordinated through PRDoH Department Operations Center in coordination with the Public Information Officer.

## Section 14: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

The PR Immunization Program Incident Command structure will have a dedicated VAERS Safety coordinator and an alternate identified under direct supervision of the Incident Commander. He/she will implement COVID-19 vaccine reporting requirements, prepare status reports, maintain situational awareness and keep leadership informed on possible safety problems.

## Section 15: COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring

The PR Immunization Program Evaluator will assist the Immunization Incident Commander, Area Commanders and coordinate with Department Operations Center Plans Section in developing procedures for monitoring various critical program planning and implementation elements, including performance targets, resources, staffing, and activities.

PRDoH leadership will provide situational awareness for stakeholders and the general public throughout the COVID-19 vaccination response. PRDoH Department Operations Center has dashboard capability. The Immunization Program ICS structure will appoint a Planning Section Chief with responsibility to plan the use of situational awareness tools including a dashboard. The PR Immunization Program will employ the HHS Tiberius Analytic Support software to produce vaccination reports and generate a dashboard capability if applicable.

## Additional Information

COVID-19 Vaccination Program staff will collaborate closely with offices/divisions/programs inside the PRDoH, governmental agencies and private external partners to execute program strategies and activities and monitor its progress, achievement and impact.

Partnerships with government agencies such as the Police and Fire Departments and the Bureau of Emergency and Disaster Management will facilitate local situational awareness input since they have offices and staff in all 78 municipalities. Also, COVID-19 Vaccination Program staff will establish collaboration with private external partners, such as the PR Immunization Coalition, PR Community Pharmacies Association and PR Primary Care Association, to share/receive local situational awareness input through their members.