The following document is for historical purposes and is no longer being updated. Please go to the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical & Professional Resources for more recent information.
Executive Summary

October 2020

On September 16, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the “COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations.” This document outlined the federal strategy for delivering and administering COVID-19 vaccine once one is approved, and it requested state and territorial health departments to answer questions and outline their plans for vaccine distribution. The jurisdictional plans were due to the CDC by October 16, 2020. This plan is Washington State’s response to this request. It describes how we will approach the work of planning for and distributing a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. It will be updated over time as additional planning occurs and as CDC updates guidance for jurisdictions.

Overall, Washington State is well positioned to receive, handle, distribute, and administer COVID-19 vaccine to its residents once a safe and effective vaccine is available. The Washington State Department of Health has started its planning by coordinating with tribal nations, state agencies, local government, community leaders, health care providers, neighboring states, and other partners.

Preparation Method

The department is using project management best practices to plan for and execute this work. We are gathering and analyzing the work requirements for a successful vaccination program while also executing the plan. The planning team will add detail and make changes to the plan as more information becomes available. We also used project management best practices to respond to the CDC’s request and write this plan.

The department involved partners and governmental entities throughout the process. Appropriate committees and subject matter experts wrote or contributed to each section to make sure the plan is thorough and accurate.

Crucial lessons learned from the H1N1 pandemic vaccine distribution in 2009 informed our COVID-19 vaccine plan.

Areas of Action

The plan itself outlines specific action steps the department will take. Major areas of action include:

- Develop an equitable vaccine allocation framework that identifies critical populations to receive vaccine in each phase of the COVID-19 vaccination response.
- Identify and recruit COVID-19 vaccination providers.
- Support distribution of the vaccine in phases according to the allocation framework.
- Gather feedback from communities that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 or at higher risk of contracting the disease.
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- Conduct outreach and education in an equitable way. Ensure our materials are appropriate for communities that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Train enrolled providers on proper vaccine storage, handling, and administration.
- Train enrolled providers on reminder/recall techniques and effective vaccine promotion.
- Build vaccine confidence and trust within Washington communities.
- Provide timely, accurate, and credible information to the people of Washington on COVID-19 vaccine, including safety information.
- Promote COVID-19 vaccination to everyone who qualifies to receive it in each phase.
- Gather and monitor vaccine administration data and provider enrollment data.

Expected Outcomes

- People in Washington will understand the phased approach to vaccination and know when they may receive their vaccination.
- Vaccine providers will properly offer and administer a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.
- COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed equitably and ethically to people in Washington following national ethical frameworks.
- People in Washington will receive a safe and effective vaccine during the appropriate phase to protect them against COVID-19.

A great deal of work has been completed and there is still more that needs to be done to accomplish the goals set forth in the Washington COVID-19 vaccination plan. The department is committed to continuing the work necessary and when a vaccine is ready, we will be prepared to deploy it in a way that is equitable, safe, and timely for the people of Washington.

You can find the current plan and all previous versions of the plan on the Washington State Department of Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccine webpage here.