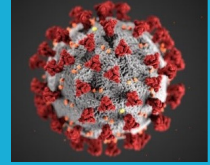


# WEST VIRGINIA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION PLAN



## Executive Summary - DRAFT

10/26/20

### Introduction

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) has developed the West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccination Program plan with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The primary purpose of this plan is to provide a framework to guide implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. The goal of the WV COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is to see a unified effort across state, federal, and local agencies to decrease COVID-19 infection rates and mortality rates. A successful vaccination campaign in West Virginia will reduce the rates of disease within our state and reduce the ability of COVID-19 to spread and impact our most vulnerable populations. This plan is a "living document" that will be revised as new information is obtained about specific vaccines approved for use, prioritized populations and subgroups identified for vaccination, and partners' and stakeholders' recommendations.

### Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program will occur in 3 phases. Phases are determined by the amount of vaccine supply available. In Phase 1, vaccine supply is extremely limited and insufficient to meet demand. Throughout Phase 1, vaccine will be available exclusively to specific pre-identified population/occupation groups including healthcare personnel and other essential workers. In Phase 2, vaccine supply will be sufficient to demand. Vaccination will be widely available through an expanded provider network. Distribution and administration strategies will be utilized to target additional critical populations who were not eligible for vaccination during Phase 1. During Phase 3, vaccine supply will exceed demand, allowing for integration into routine vaccination programs.

### Critical Populations

In addition to the critical populations slated to receive initial doses in Phase 1, other critical populations will be identified for targeted outreach in Phase 2. These will include persons at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and persons residing or working in settings that increase the risk of disease transmission. WVDHHR will identify and prioritize critical groups for vaccination based on final guidance from CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as well as input from West Virginia's COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Advisory Group based on our state's epidemiological data.

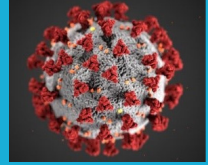
### Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

WVDHHR has prioritized recruitment efforts for vaccination providers who will administer vaccine during Phase 1 including local health departments (LHDs), hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and pharmacies. All providers will be required to formally enroll in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program by completing a web-based Provider Agreement and Provider Profile. Once Phase 1 vaccination providers have been successfully enrolled and onboarded, recruitment will shift to targeting additional provider groups.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

COVID-19 vaccine products are temperature-sensitive and must be stored and handled correctly to ensure efficacy and maximize shelf life. Proper storage and handling practices are critical to minimize vaccine loss and limit risk of administering COVID-19 vaccine with reduced effectiveness. WVDHHR will provide written and

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illustrated guidelines for vaccine storage and handling and will require all providers to certify that the storage and handling requirements are understood and can be met. Additionally, all enrolled providers will be required to certify that they have the refrigerator and/or freezer storage units capable of maintaining the temperatures required for COVID-19 vaccine storage and a continuous temperature monitoring device that can provide a digital download of recorded temperatures in the event of any malfunction or power outage affecting the cold chain of vaccines.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders**

It is anticipated that most COVID-19 vaccines will require a two-dose series separated by 21 or 28 days. Therefore, enrolled providers will use client “reminder/recall” tools to remind patients when their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccinations are due (reminders) or overdue (recall). The CDC Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) can send reminders to vaccine recipients for follow-up doses and appointments via texts and/or emails. Similarly, the West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information System (WVSIIS) has the ability for healthcare providers to generate and send reminders (letters, postcards) when patients are due for their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine and/or schedule their vaccination appointments.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication**

Clear and consistent messaging will be critical to the success of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Building vaccine confidence broadly and among groups anticipated to receive early vaccination, as well as dispelling vaccine misinformation, are critical to ensure vaccine acceptance and uptake. The West Virginia Immunization Network (WIN), a program of the Center for Rural Health Development, will conduct a statewide communication campaign to increase knowledge and acceptance of COVID-19 vaccine(s) in West Virginia. A variety of communication channels, both free and paid, will be used to reach the greatest number of West Virginians including radio spots, social media posts, public service announcements, and more. Statewide influencers as well as local community leaders will be engaged to assist with delivery of key messages.

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring**

The COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement specifies that moderate and severe adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination are required to be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) system. The Division of Immunization Services (DIS) will ensure all vaccination providers receive guidance and training on the requirements and processes for reporting adverse events following vaccination.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring**

The Division of Immunization Services (DIS) will oversee continuous monitoring throughout the COVID-19 Vaccination Program to ensure the program is achieving desired outcomes. Data for key indicators will be routinely collected and analyzed to assess progress and identify areas for improvement. Monitoring activities will include programmatic and budgetary oversight and accountability, providing assistance for partners and stakeholders, and utilizing data from both the Weekly Flu Vaccination Dashboard and COVID-19 Vaccination Response Dashboard to identify trends and emerging issues to improve the outcome of the program.

## **Additional Information**

Additional information for COVID-19 vaccinating providers and the public will be made available at [www.coronavirus.wv.gov](http://www.coronavirus.wv.gov)