

Montana Health Alert Network

DPHHS HAN

ADVISORY

Cover Sheet

DATE

December 24, 2020

SUBJECT

Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination in Montana

INSTRUCTIONS

DISTRIBUTE to your local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information.

- Time for Forwarding: **As Soon As Possible**
- Please forward to DPHHS at hhshan@mt.gov
- **Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own**



For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only
DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

**Immunization Section
1-406-444-5580**

For technical issues related to the HAN message contact the Emergency Preparedness Section at 1-406-444-0919

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769

DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov

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hhshan@mt.gov

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please update your HAN contact information on the Montana Public Health Directory

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet



DATE

December 24, 2020

SUBJECT

Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination in Montana

BACKGROUND

On December 8, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer/BioTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The FDA then issued an EUA for the Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccine on December 18, 2020. Montana is currently receiving limited amounts of vaccine from both manufacturers.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has released recommendations for the allocation of COVID-19 vaccines for phases 1 and 2 of this effort.

- On December 1, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that health care personnel and long-term care facility residents be offered COVID-19 vaccination first (Phase 1a).
- On December 20, ACIP updated interim vaccine allocation recommendations. In Phase 1b, COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to persons aged ≥ 75 years and non-health care frontline essential workers, and in Phase 1c, to persons aged 65–74 years, persons aged 16–64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not included in Phase 1b.
- In addition, limited information on Phase 2 was provided. Phase 2 includes all other persons aged ≥ 16 years not already recommended for vaccination in Phases 1a, 1b, or 1c. Currently, in accordance with recommended age and conditions of use, any authorized COVID-19 vaccine may be used.

DPHHS has largely adopted these recommendations which are described in detail below. All phases and timelines are dependent on vaccine allocation and assumes 100% uptake among populations in each phase.

Timelines may be updated as needed to reflect any changes in recommendations or vaccine supplies. Timelines reflect when most of the vaccination for the specific phase are anticipated to be given; however, we anticipate additional doses will be administered as needed to complete each phase.

INFORMATION

PHASE 1

Phase 1A

Recipients

- Frontline healthcare workers
- Long-term Care and Assisted Living Facilities (LTC/ALF)

- Healthcare workers with direct patient contact or virus exposure

Approximate Timeline

- HCW Program - December 15, 2020 through January 15, 2021
- LTC/ALF Program - December 28, 2020 through February 26, 2021

Phase 1B

Recipients

- Persons aged 75 years and older
- Individuals residing in congregate care and correctional facilities
- American Indians and other people of color who may be at elevated risk for COVID-19 complications
- Frontline Essential Workers
 - First Responders
 - Education and all childcare workers
 - Critical infrastructure federal employees
 - Food & Agriculture
 - Manufacturing
 - Corrections workers
 - US Postal Service
 - Public transit workers
 - Grocery store workers
 - Child and adult protective service workers who are at risk for exposure
 - Inspectors of congregate care facilities or like settings
 - Critical infrastructure energy workers
 - Critical infrastructure IT workers

Approximate Timeline

- January 15, 2021 through March 15, 2021

Phase 1C

Recipients

- Persons aged 65 years and older
- Persons aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions
- Essential Workers
 - Transportation & Logistics
 - Food Service
 - Shelter, housing, construction
 - Finance
 - IT & Communication
 - Energy
 - Legal
 - Media
 - Public Safety
 - Water & Wastewater
 - Essential Government Personnel

Approximate Timeline

- March 15, 2021 through July 15, 2021

PHASE 2

Recipients

- All remaining Montanans aged 16 or older

Approximate Timeline

- Begin July 2021 and this will remain an ongoing effort

The CDC Phased COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>

CDC Definitions of persons with an increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness

Persons *who are at increased risk* of severe COVID-19 illness:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Obesity (BMI of 30 or higher)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Smoking
- Pregnancy
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Persons *who may be at increased risk* of severe COVID-19 illness:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Liver disease
- Overweight (BMI > 25 kg/m², but < 30 kg/m²)
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus

The CDC guidance for people at increased risk can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Health Care Providers:

All providers with direct patient contact are eligible to receive vaccine as local supplies allow. Many jurisdictions have just received initial allocations and have prioritized high-risk providers and will vaccinate other providers as supplies allow.

If not already aware, we recommend consulting with your local public health partners or the hospital in your community to determine what health care providers are currently able to receive vaccine. Additional vaccine is anticipated in most communities in the coming weeks and will be allocated to health care providers with direct patient contact to complete Phase 1a.

Public Health Departments:

Continue to work with vaccine providers in the community to monitor vaccine supplies and local efforts to complete Phase 1a. Planning for Phases 1b and 1c, broadening target groups, should continue to be emphasized as the demand for information is very high and public messaging is just beginning to be shared.

Vaccination providers throughout each community will be collaborating to ensure availability to those in each target group as more vaccine becomes available. It will be important for consistency of messaging at the state and local levels to be sharing information with all those involved.

We will be updating messaging from DPHHS weekly with respect to vaccine supplies, target groups and uptake of vaccine.

Please share this HAN and the attached schedule with relevant partners and the general public at your discretion.

Proposed COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation – Montana

Time frames and target populations are based on current estimates of vaccine availability and current recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Timeframes and populations may be adjusted as resources and recommendations are reviewed.

Phase and Recipients

1A: Approximately 60,000 Montanans

- Frontline healthcare workers
- Long-term care facilities
- Healthcare workers with direct patient contact or virus exposure

Administration Sites

- Hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Local Health Departments
- IHS and Tribal Health
- Pharmacies

Approximate Timeline

HCW Program

- December 15, 2020 through January 15, 2021

LTCF Program:

First Dose Administration

- December 28, 2020

Program Completion

1B: Approximately 90,000 Montanans

- Persons aged 75 years and older
- Individuals residing in congregate care and correctional facilities
- Frontline Essential Workers
 - First Responders
 - Education and all childcare workers
 - Critical infrastructure federal employees
 - Food & Agriculture
 - Manufacturing
 - Corrections workers
 - US Postal Service
 - Public transit workers
 - Grocery store workers
 - Child and adult protective service workers who are at risk for exposure
 - Inspectors of congregate care facilities or like settings
 - Critical infrastructure energy workers
 - Critical infrastructure IT workers
- American Indians and other people of color who may be at elevated risk for COVID-19 complications

- Hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Local Health Departments
- IHS and Tribal Health
- Pharmacies

Dose 1 administration timeline:

- Approximately 2 months
- January 15, 2021 through March 15, 2021

1C: Approximately 171,000 Montanans

- Persons aged 65 years and older
- Persons aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions
- Essential Workers
 - Transportation & Logistics
 - Food Service
 - Shelter, housing, construction
 - Finance
 - IT & Communication
 - Energy

- Hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Local Health Departments
- IHS and Tribal Health
- Pharmacies

Dose 1 administration timeline:

- Approximately 4 months
- March 15, 2021 through July 15, 2021

- Legal
- Media
- Public Safety
- Water & Wastewater
- Essential Government Personnel

Phase 2

- All remaining Montanans aged 16 or older

- Hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Local Health Departments

Dose 1 Administration timeline:

- Begin July 2021 and this will remain an ongoing effort