

Member Communication on Vaccine Program/Where to Find Location:

COVID-19 Vaccine: Slow the Spread and Save Lives

Ohio has started distributing safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines statewide to those who choose to be vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine development process included steps comparable with those used to develop previous vaccines, such as the flu or measles vaccine. While vaccine supply is limited, Ohio will follow a phased approach to vaccine administration. In the first vaccination phase, priority will be given to individuals at the highest risk, as well as essential health care workers and personnel caring for COVID-19 patients.

As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated.

- Phase 1 (Supply Limited) – Vaccine is available in limited supply and will be available only for specific critical populations. Ohio will focus on vaccinating those most at risk, as well as essential healthcare workers and personnel caring for COVID19 patients.
- Phase 2 (Supply Increasing) – Vaccine availability is increasing and can be offered to a larger group of specific critical populations who choose to be vaccinated.
- Phases 3-4 (Widely Available) – Once the vaccine is widely available, Ohio will continue to strategically vaccinate Ohioans if they choose to receive vaccine.

Ohio is now beginning Phase 1B. Phase 1B will provide vaccines to Ohioans age 65 and older and those living with severe congenital, intellectual or developmental disabilities, or early-onset medical disorders. Also included in Phase 1B are K-12 school employees as part of a plan to resume or continue in-person learning or hybrid models by March 1.

- o **Week of Jan. 19:** Ohioans age 80 and older
- o **Week of Jan. 25:** Ohioans age 75 and older; those with a developmental or intellectual disability AND specific severe congenital or developmental disorders listed above.
- o **Week of Feb. 1:** Ohioans age 70 and older; employees of K-12 schools that have committed to remain or return to in-person or hybrid models
- o **Week of Feb. 8:** Ohioans age 65 and older.
- o **The week of Feb. 15:** Those with specific severe congenital or developmental disorders listed above.

As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to receive the vaccine.

Things you need to know about the COVID-19 Vaccine:

It is safe and effective. Your safety is the top priority of researchers and manufacturers who created the COVID-19 vaccine. Clinical trials, FDA evaluation and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) review were part of the development process.



Two doses of the vaccine are required to offer full protection. They are given several weeks apart. The first vaccination primes the body's immune system and helps it recognize the virus. The second vaccination strengthens the immune response.

The vaccine is free for all Ohioans regardless of the type of insurance you have or if you don't have any insurance.

Only the COVID-19 vaccine can protect against the virus. Other vaccines will not protect you.

The vaccine is approved for ages 18 and up for the Moderna product and ages 16 and up for the Pfizer-BioNTech product.

Where Can You Locate Vaccine Providers?

The Ohio Department of Health has developed a search tool for Ohioans to use to find a vaccine provider near them. Ohioans can visit: <https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov/> to find a vaccine provider near them. It is searchable by ZIP code and county, and only displays those providers currently receiving vaccine shipments.

Ohioans can also reach out to their health insurance provider for assistance in finding a vaccine provider and scheduling an appointment.

Continue to Protect Yourself and Others by:

- Staying home as much as possible.
- Washing your hands often.
- Wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose and practicing social distancing.

Stay up to date on Ohio's COVID-19 response and vaccine program at: coronavirus.ohio.gov