



Health Alert



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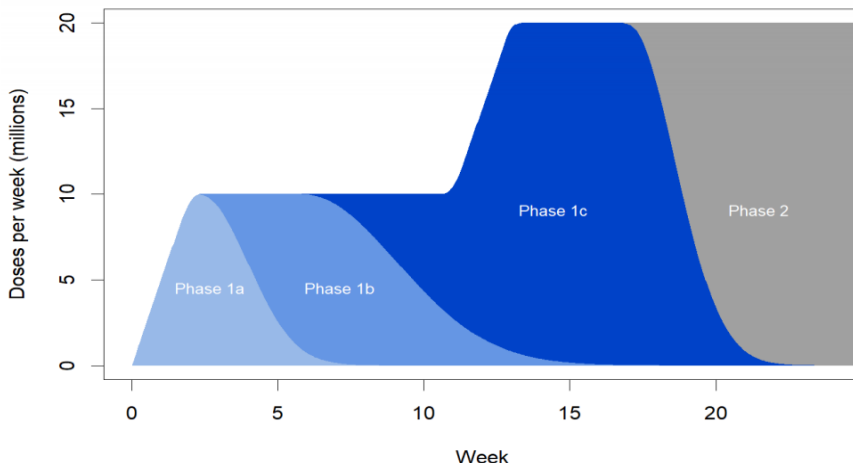
COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Considerations for the Next Phases of Chicago's Vaccine Allocation

December 28, 2020

Summary

- Demand for COVID-19 vaccines is expected to exceed supply during the first months of the national COVID-19 vaccination program and this will impact vaccine distribution in Chicago.
- On December 22, 2020, CDC MMWR released [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Updated Interim Recommendation for Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, December 2020](#) to establish a framework for local implementation of vaccine prioritization.
- While healthcare personnel (HCP) and long-term care residents are currently being vaccinated in Phase 1a, frontline essential workers and individuals ≥ 75 years of age have been recommended to be included in the next group, Phase 1b.
- Vaccination phases will overlap over the next few months to allow complete vaccination of each group.

Background: On December 20, 2020, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that in Phase 1b, vaccine should be offered to persons aged ≥ 75 years and frontline essential workers (non-health care workers), and that in Phase 1c, persons aged 65–74 years, persons aged 16–64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not recommended for vaccination in Phase 1b should be offered vaccine. These recommendations for phased allocation provide guidance for federal, state, and local jurisdictions while vaccine supply is limited.



An [example of phased allocation was presented at the ACIP meeting on December 20, 2020](#)¹ and is represented to the left. The interim recommendations may be updated with changes in the FDA Emergency Use Authorization, authorization for new COVID-19 vaccines, changes in vaccine supply, or changes in COVID-19 epidemiology. Demand for COVID-19 vaccines is expected to exceed supply during the first months of the national COVID-19 vaccination program and this will impact vaccine distribution in Chicago. In CDC's guidance on [Interim Considerations for Phased](#)

[Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination and Sub-Prioritization Among Recommended Populations](#), it is not necessary to vaccinate all individuals in one phase before initiating the next phase; phases may overlap (see above). Supplemental [Vaccination Implementation Strategies](#) are available on the CDC website.

ACIP used Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidance to **define frontline essential workers as the subset of essential workers likely at highest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-**

CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because their work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers. ACIP has classified the following non-health care essential workers as frontline workers: first responders (e.g., firefighters and police officers), corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service (USPS) workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff members) as well as childcare workers.

Local Implementation Principles:

CDPH supports the ethical principles used by ACIP for recommendations regarding allocating Phase 1b and 1c supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, namely, to maximize benefits and minimize harms, promote justice, and mitigate health inequities.²

Recommendations for Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines to Persons Aged ≥16 Years³

Phase	Groups recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine
1a	Health care personnel
	Long-term care facility residents
1b	Frontline essential workers [§]
	Persons aged ≥75 years
1c	Persons aged 65–74 years
	Persons aged 16–64 years [¶] with high-risk medical conditions
	Essential workers* not recommended for vaccination in Phase 1b
2	All persons aged ≥16 years [¶] not previously recommended for vaccination

[§] ACIP has classified the following non-health care essential workers as frontline workers: first responders (e.g., firefighters and police officers), corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the education sector (teachers and support staff members) as well as childcare workers; relative proportions will vary by state.

[¶] As of December 18, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for use in persons aged 16–17 years.

* Essential worker sectors recommended for vaccination in Phase 1c include those in transportation and logistics, water and wastewater, food service, shelter and housing (e.g., construction), finance (e.g., bank tellers), information technology and communications, energy, legal, media, public safety (e.g., engineers), and public health workers.

Vaccine Sub-prioritization Planning Considerations: [Sub-prioritization](#) may also be necessary among groups included in Phase 1b and 1c based on essential worker classifications, as well as other factors including, but not limited to, age, underlying medical conditions, and risk of exposure.

¹ Dooling, K. presenting for the ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Work Group. Phased Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccines. Slide 39: Example of Phase 1 & Phase 2 COVID-19 vaccination roll-out. ACIP meeting; December 20, 2020.

² McClung N, Chamberland M, Kinlaw K, et al. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' ethical principles for allocating initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine—United States, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:1782–6. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6947e3>.

³ Adapted from TABLE. Dooling K, Marin M, Wallace M, et al. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Updated Interim Recommendation for Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, December 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. ePub: 22 December 2020. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm695152e2>.