



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CITY OF CHICAGO

December 18, 2020

Dear Colleague:

We have begun COVID-19 vaccinations in the City of Chicago this week! These efforts are critical to the health of our residents and workforce, as well as Chicago's economic recovery from this devastating pandemic. Life will not suddenly return to normal, but COVID-19 vaccination is the light at the end of the tunnel. You have a critically important role in this effort, as a highly trusted source of information for your patients and others in the communities in which you live and work. We want to partner with as many of you as possible in vaccination efforts and vaccine safety monitoring.

Vaccination is beginning now with frontline healthcare workers in Chicago hospitals and long-term care facilities and will begin to expand to higher-risk healthcare workers in other healthcare settings over the next month. We anticipate it will take a few months to be able to offer vaccine to all of Chicago's 400,000 healthcare workers.

Vaccination of staff from Chicago health care facilities that are not hospitals or long-term care facilities¹ will take place at CDPH mass vaccination clinics, facility-based clinics and hospital-based clinics, beginning in early 2021. **We strongly encourage you to work with a hospital affiliated with your facility to get your staff vaccinated whenever possible.**

To support CDPH's operational planning around where and how your staff will be vaccinated, each Chicago facility must complete the REDCap Facility Vaccination Planning Survey, at <https://redcap.link/StaffVaccinationInquirySurvey> by January 1, 2020. Each physical location should assign one administrator to complete the survey. **Failure to complete this survey will result in delays in staff vaccination.** Based on your responses to this survey, if it is determined that your facility should be enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccinator, you will also be directed to complete the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement and Provider Profile, at <https://www.chicagohan.org/covidvax>.

Bi-directional communication is essential for the City's vaccination efforts. Please be aware of how we will be communicating with you and how you can reach out to the City for information and assistance:

1. Chicago's COVID-19 vaccine website: www.chicago.gov/covidvax. This website is for health care providers as well as the general public. It will be updated frequently as new information about COVID-19 vaccines become available and already has materials useful for communicating with your patients, including signage, handouts, and other print resources in multiple languages.

2. CDPH Health Alerts: If you are not already subscribed to CDPH Health Alerts, please sign up now, at <https://www.chicagohan.org/web/han/registration>. This is the best way to receive information from

¹ Including, but not limited to, personnel at outpatient clinics, doctors' offices, dentists' offices, independent pharmacies, home care companies, dialysis centers, laboratories, and COVID-19 testing sites; and personnel that work at mortuary services facilities.



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CDPH tailored for health care providers, including information related to COVID-19. The CDPH Health Alert Network (HAN) contains public health information for medical providers, delivered to your inbox and archived on the web, as well as an online document library on public health topics. All medical providers in Chicago may access the HAN.

3. **COVID-19 Weekly Update** is our general public-facing COVID weekly e-newsletter. Sign up to receive it here: [Chicago COVID-19 Weekly Update](#). The link can also be found at Chicago.gov/coronavirus on the lower left "Sign Up for Updates".

5. **CDPH COVID-19 provider mailbox:** If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination efforts, please email COVID19Vaccine@cityofchicago.org. Please note that this email address is for Chicago health care providers only.

Many challenges lie ahead, and your support is essential. We look forward to partnering with you on this vitally important COVID-19 vaccine response.

Sincerely,

Allison Arwady, MD
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health