Vaccination Essentials: Long-Term Care Pharmacy Partnership

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Strategic aims of New Jersey’s COVID-19 vaccination program
(from New Jersey’s vaccination plan Executive Summary)

Provide equitable access to all who live, work, and/or are educated in New Jersey

Achieve community protection, assuming vaccine effectiveness, availability, and uptake

Build sustainable trust in COVID-19 and other vaccines

New Jersey Interim COVID-19 vaccination plan

Links
- Interim COVID-19 Vaccination Plan
- Executive Summary
- FAQs

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions
October 21, 2020

General Vaccine Information

What is Operation Warp Speed?
Operation Warp Speed is a partnership among components of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense to help develop, make, and distribute millions of vaccine doses for COVID-19 as quickly as possible while ensuring that the vaccines are safe and that they work. Learn more about Operation Warp Speed by visiting https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/explaining-operation-warp-speed/index.html

Who is the CDC and what is their role with the COVID-19 vaccine?
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the national public health institute in the United States under the Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC’s overall responsibility is to address health, safety, and security threats of Americans both at home and abroad.

The CDC is focused on vaccine planning, working closely with health departments and partners to prepare for when a vaccine is available. The CDC does not have a role in developing COVID-19 vaccines. Learn more about the vaccine planning process by visiting https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/5-things.html

What is New Jersey doing to plan for the COVID-19 vaccine?
The New Jersey Department of Health collaborated with health care partners and immunization stakeholders to submit a vaccine plan to the CDC on October 16, 2020. This plan encompasses suggested priority groups for vaccination, logistics of vaccine storage and handling, health care provider recruitment, tracking and reporting of immunizations, etc.

Since no vaccine is currently available, we are closely following progress on COVID-19 vaccine trials and potential U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized vaccine(s). The Department will continue to update the plan as we receive new information and federal guidance.

Is a COVID-19 vaccine necessary?
COVID-19 can be a minor illness in some or lead to severe disease or even death in previously healthy people. This means, everyone should take the virus seriously — if not for themselves, then for those around them.
Sequence of steps and estimated timeline for the Pfizer vaccine and Moderna vaccine

Preliminary, pre-decisional, and deliberative. Based on input provided by State agency leaders and staff, to date, and subject to change. Content is descriptive only and is not meant to constitute legal, clinical, or policy advice.

SOURCE: Operation Warp Speed
Emergency Use Authorizations granted to-date (updated 12/20/20)

## Pfizer-BioNTech

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EUA granted December 11 for use in ages 16+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- <a href="#">Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Letter of Authorization</a></td>
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<td>- <a href="#">EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers</a></td>
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<td>- <a href="#">EUA Fact Sheet for Patients</a></td>
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ACIP recommendations published in MMWR December 13:


## Moderna

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<td>- <a href="#">Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Letter of Authorization</a></td>
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<td>- <a href="#">EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers</a></td>
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<td>- <a href="#">EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers</a></td>
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ACIP recommendations published in MMWR December 20:

| - [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ Interim Recommendation for Use of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, December 2020](#) |
Who can get a vaccine in New Jersey and when?

PHASE STARTED
DECEMBER 15

Phase 1
- Healthcare workers
- Long-Term Care residents

Phase 1A
- Other essential workers

Phase 1B
- Adults 65+ years of age
- Adults with high-risk medical conditions

Phase 1C
- General Population

Phase 2
- Informed by CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook (Sept. 16, 2020), CDC MMWR, ACIP Prioritization work group considerations
Who is considered a healthcare worker?

Any paid or unpaid person working or volunteering in a healthcare setting who may have direct or indirect contact with infectious persons or materials. For example:

- Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and any other licensed or registered health professionals
- Staff in areas like Facilities management, Security, Food Services, Environmental Services, Administrative Services, Human Resources, Reception, Language Services, Information Technology, Laboratory and any other healthcare support areas
- Community health workers / promotoras, home health aides, visiting nurses, doulas, health educators and public health professionals
- Trainees, students, volunteers, essential caregivers, vaccinating site staff, contractors
- Other personnel like Emergency Medical Services (EMS), paramedics, funeral staff, mortuary staff and autopsy workers
Vaccines are expected to be available to healthcare workers starting mid-December 2020.

Where can I get a vaccine if I am a healthcare worker?

**Hospital** where I work or volunteer

**Long-term care facility** where I live, work or volunteer

Points of dispensing at:
- Pharmacies
- Urgent care centers
- Other medical clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Hospitals
- Local Health Departments
- Other state and county-run sites

For more information please visit [our website](#).
What is considered a healthcare setting?

Hospitals of any type

- Skilled nursing facilities
- Veteran's homes
- Assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and personal care homes
- HUD Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program housing
- Group homes like residential care homes, residential dementia care homes, comprehensive care homes, adult family homes, adult foster homes, and intellectual and developmental disabilities IDD group homes
- Other vulnerable, congregate, long-term settings

Long-term care facilities, for example:

- Skilled nursing facilities
- Veteran's homes
- Assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and personal care homes
- HUD Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program housing
- Group homes like residential care homes, residential dementia care homes, comprehensive care homes, adult family homes, adult foster homes, and intellectual and developmental disabilities IDD group homes
- Other vulnerable, congregate, long-term settings

Other settings or contexts, for example:

- Ambulatory care facilities
- Community health centers
- Dental and other physician offices
- Dialysis centers
- Emergency Medical Services
- Family planning centers
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Funeral homes, cemeteries, crematoria
- Harm reduction centers
- Health clinics in workplaces, K-12 schools, universities, shelters, jails
- HIV/Sexually Transmitted Disease clinics
- Home care or visiting nurse agencies

All other healthcare workers and volunteers

For more information please visit [our website](#)
HHS/CDC is partnering with pharmacies (CVS and Walgreens) to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccines for residents and workers of nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

- **CVS and Walgreens will be scheduling and coordinating** on-site clinics directly with each LTC facility.
- **Both LTC residents and staff** will have opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through this program.
- **First on-site clinics are expected at nursing homes (SNFs) beginning 12/28/20** – other facilities (e.g., assisted living facilities) will take place once SNFs are completed.
- **CVS and Walgreens will visit each LTC facility three times**, each spread three weeks apart (for second doses).

1. Staff includes both paid and unpaid workers

SOURCE: CDC, “Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program for COVID-19 Vaccination” 12/1/2020

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LTC program timeline to date

2020
October

November—November – Facility self-enrollment period

November

November–December – Federal matching of facilities with CVS and Walgreens

December

December 28 onward – Clinics underway

2021
January

November 6 – Self-enrollment period closes¹

Week of December 28 – Clinics begin at Skilled Nursing Facilities

¹ Nov 6 end HCANJ presser

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## Pharmacy participation in COVID-19 vaccination

### Pharmacy Programs

| A Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program
| Provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process, including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements, to facilitate safe vaccination of this patient population, while reducing burden on LTC facilities and jurisdictional health departments |
| B Federal Pharmacy Partnership for COVID-19 Vaccination Program
| Select pharmacy partners will receive a direct allocation of COVID-19 vaccine. This will help jurisdictions augment access to vaccine when supply increases and vaccine is recommended beyond the initial critical populations. |
| C Other pharmacies e.g., independents
| Nature of participation to be determined but currently factored into business case as potential PODS |

### Participating sites

| Walgreens |
| CVS Health Corporation |
| CVS Health Corporation |
| Walmart Stores, Inc (including Sam’s) |
| Rite Aid Corp |
| The Kroger Co Publix |
| Costco |
| Albertsons Companies |
| Hy-Vee |
| Meijer |
| H-E-B |
| Retail Business Services (i.e., Food Lion, Giant Food, The Giant Company, Hannaford Bros Co, Stop & Shop) |

**SOURCE:** CDC Playbook - Appendix H and I

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Public confidence building is critical

- **3000+ Stakeholders engaged**
  - across federal, state and local leaders; healthcare providers and professional associations, community and faith based organizations, employers and unions, consumer groups

- **Multi-pronged public awareness campaign**
  - being launched in December

- **Vaccine webpage updated consistently**
  - as new CDC and other information and guidance becomes available

- **Provider survey**
  - analyzed, and consumer confidence surveys launched using existing call centers. Provider survey call volumes to help desk also monitored

- **~12 Listening Sessions**
  - hosted to understand attitudes towards vaccines across consumer and provider groups

- **Weekly newsletter**
  - launched (maiden Dec. 4th, 2020) to keep stakeholders abreast with the latest vaccine related developments
Weekly newsletter
What do we need from you?

Seek knowledge and be informed
Reach out if you have questions
Participate in setting up vaccination sites
Work with us to build public confidence
Engage with community as vaccine ambassadors
Stay safe, stay healthy, …
…and get vaccinated!