



COVID-19 Vaccine

What Oklahoma Physicians Need to Know

With two promising COVID vaccines now available, federal and state authorities have begun the herculean process of getting these vaccines out to the frontline workers and at-risk patients who need them most. Below is a summary of what Oklahoma physicians need to know about the plans for how the vaccine will be distributed and when

It is important to note that the vaccine distribution plan is subject to change based on numbers of doses in the initial federal allotments, vaccine production and supply chain issues, or other logistical considerations. Within each phase, there may also be a certain amount of prioritization within categories based on comorbidities, age, exposure level and access to PPE. However, the information below reflects our current understanding of the plan based on consultation with the Oklahoma Department of Health.

We will continue to keep OSMA members updated as this plan continues to evolve, but we wanted to give you the current road map for how the vaccine will be distributed.

PHASE 1

Who Is Included?

1. Long-term care residents and staff
2. Walgreens and CVS employees who will be administering those vaccines
3. Health care workers providing direct, inpatient care to COVID patients
4. Other hospital staff workers (i.e., food service, custodians, etc.) providing services to inpatient COVID patients
5. Public health staff responsible for administering vaccines or processing COVID tests
6. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics

Rollout: December 2020

Total Estimated Population: 157,900

Administration Sites:

- Most doses are being shipped to major hospitals for administration to those providing direct, inpatient care in their facilities. We have heard anecdotal stories of non-COVID practitioners receiving vaccines or independent frontline workers who are not hospital employees having their vaccines delayed. We are working with OSDH and hospitals to address these concerns but, thus far, aside from some isolated incidents it appears the first round of vaccine administration has gone relatively smoothly. (Hospitals have been directed not to let any of the vaccine go to waste, so it is important to note that, given the short shelf-life—six hours—of the Pfizer vaccine, it is likely that some hospital staff outside of the categories listed above could receive the shot so as to take advantage of any available doses before they expire.)
- CVS and Walgreens staff members are also receiving the Pfizer vaccine and will be going on-site to administer to staff and patients in long-term care facilities.

What else should you know?

- Oklahoma received 33,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine last week and 66,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 21. The state should be receiving another Pfizer shipment later this week and a third before the end of the year. All told, the state should receive roughly 166,000 doses in this first round of shipments. This is in addition to doses being shipped by the federal government directly to federal and Indian Health Service facilities.
- With roughly 90,000 additional doses being made available this week, our hope is that all of our members providing inpatient care should receive their first round of vaccination by the end of the year.

PHASE 2

Who Is Included?

1. First responders, including fire departments and law enforcement
2. Health care workers providing direct, COVID outpatient services, including dental work, urgent care, pharmacies and hospice
3. Adults age 65 and older, or adults of any age with comorbidities.
4. PreK-12 teachers and support staff
5. Staff and residents in congregate locations, such as prisons, homeless shelters and production facilities critical to the food supply
6. Public health staff; state and local leaders and elected officials

Expected Rollout: January 2021

Total estimated population: 817,000.

Administration Sites:

- Individual physician offices can sign up now to serve as a Pandemic Vaccine Provider. Any facility, organization, or healthcare provider licensed to possess vaccine, administer vaccine, or provide vaccination services in Oklahoma is eligible to enroll to serve as a vaccine provider. For more information on how to enroll as a Pandemic Vaccine Provider, visit <https://oklahoma.gov/covid19/vaccine-information/provider-enrollment-process.html>.
- The county and city-county health departments will be the primary source for Phase 2 vaccines. Vaccine will be distributed into the community, through a combination of avenues, including but not limited to walk-in and/or drive-up clinics, health department coordinated point of distribution events, on-site vaccinations at school sites and on-site appointments at health department facilities.

What else should you know?

- Phase 2 will be handled in multiple groups, based on priority and vaccine availability. Health care workers and first responders will be in the first tier, followed by high-risk adults, then teachers and finally the congregate populations and political leaders.
- As the state nears phase 2 availability, the Oklahoma Department of Health will launch an online scheduling portal that will allow eligible individuals to schedule an appointment at a convenient health department location near them.

PHASE 3

Who is included?

1. Teachers, students and residents in PreK-12 and other settings, including colleges, universities, Career Tech sites and day cares (pending FDA approval of the vaccine for those under 16).
2. "Essential business" personnel, as defined by the governor's executive order

Expected rollout: Spring 2021

Total estimated population: 2,433,000 (including those under 16)

Administration Sites:

- Pandemic Vaccine Providers
 - County Health Departments
 - Pharmacies including but not limited to CVS, Walgreens, etc.
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PHASE 4

Who Is Included?

- All other Oklahomans.

Expected rollout: Undetermined

Total estimated population: 555,000

Administration Sites:

- All eligible vaccine providers, dependent on vaccine availability