Governor DeWine addressed the state on Friday, Dec. 4, in a press conference, sharing information about vaccine distribution in Ohio. Click here to view the press conference or to read a recap.

Moderna applied for its EUA on Nov. 30, and depending upon the approval timeline, their vaccine could be shipped directly to providers as soon as Dec. 22. It will not be shipped or repackaged through the ODH RSS.

Ultracold storage is not a prerequisite to register to become a vaccine provider for the Pfizer vaccine. Redistributed Pfizer vaccine from the RSS warehouse will be packaged with dry ice and will arrive at its destination within six hours of being packed. It will remain stable if sealed in the original shipping container with dry ice for up to five days.

Initially, there will be a limited number of vaccines available, and Ohio is committed to making it widely available for those who want to receive it as quickly as possible as shipments arrive. In conjunction with the recommendations of medical experts from ACIP and NAESM, Ohio has identified who will be among the first to receive those very early shipments in Phase 1A, should they choose to be vaccinated:

- Healthcare providers and personnel who are routinely involved with the care of COVID-19 patients.
- Residents and staff at nursing facilities.
- Residents and staff at assisted living facilities.
- Patients and staff at psychiatric hospitals.
- People with intellectual disabilities and those with mental illness who in group homes or centers and staff at those locations.
- Residents and staff of Ohio’s veterans homes.
- EMS responders.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Regularly speak about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Record audio or video PSAs from industry leaders using the messaging outlined in this document. Send those messages to members and post them on websites/social media.
- Use local speaking opportunities and virtual meetings to reiterate that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
- Submit letters to the editor to local news outlets or participate in radio or television interviews about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and what the success of COVID-19 vaccination will mean for your business and the community.
The most trusted voices when it comes to information about COVID-19 are an individual’s personal physician, medical experts, and emergency room doctors, followed by public health officials. As a vaccine provider, you can be one of those trusted sources of information for your patients and constituents.

- Ohio is prepared to distribute **safe** and **effective** COVID-19 vaccines statewide. We have two clear goals: To save lives and slow the spread of the virus.

- The COVID-19 vaccine development process included several steps comparable with those used to develop earlier vaccines, such as the flu or measles vaccine. The FDA, as well as independent medical experts, have ensured that every detail of these vaccines are thoroughly and rigorously evaluated.

- Initially, there will be a limited number of vaccines available, and Ohio is committed to making the vaccine widely available, for those who want to receive it, as quickly as possible as shipments arrive. In conjunction with the recommendations of medical experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), Ohio has identified the critical audiences that will be among the first to receive those very early shipments in Phase 1A, should they choose to be vaccinated:
  - Healthcare providers and personnel who are routinely involved with the care of COVID-19 patients.
  - Residents and staff in nursing facilities.
  - Residents and staff in assisted living facilities.
  - Patients and staff at psychiatric hospitals.
  - People with intellectual disabilities and those with mental illness who in group homes or centers and staff at those locations.
  - Residents and staff of Ohio’s veterans homes.
  - EMS responders.

- The vaccine has been shown to decrease the severity of illness in people who catch this virus. Having a significant portion of Ohioans vaccinated will help us prevent serious hospitalizations and death, and will allow a return to normal.

- Using all the tools available to help prevent the spread of the virus continues to be critical until a substantial number of Ohioans can be vaccinated. Continuing to wear masks and social distance will reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus. Proper prevention measures coupled with the vaccine will provide the best protection from COVID-19.

- COVID-19 vaccines can save lives. COVID-19 is deadly and has killed more than 6,800 Ohioans and more than 276,000 people across the U.S. (data updated Dec. 4, 2020)

- Side effects are minimal. The most common side effects include fatigue, headache, soreness or redness at the injection site, and muscle or joint pain, and should not prevent you from getting a vaccine that can prevent you from catching or spreading this deadly virus.

**LANGUAGE TIPS**

Recent research from the de Beaumont Foundation finds that certain vocabulary is more persuasive when it comes to the pandemic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More persuasive</th>
<th>Less persuasive</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pandemic</td>
<td>Coronavirus, COVID-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face masks</td>
<td>Facial coverings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential workers</td>
<td>Frontline workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocols</td>
<td>Mandates, directives, controls, orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay-at-home orders</td>
<td>Lockdowns, aggressive restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal responsibility</td>
<td>National duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health agencies</td>
<td>Government health agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fact-based</td>
<td>Based on science, data, or medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social distancing</td>
<td>Physical distancing</td>
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<tr>
<td>An effective and safe vaccine</td>
<td>A vaccine developed quickly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting rid of the virus</td>
<td>Defeating, crushing, knocking out the virus</td>
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</table>