Health Alert

December 30, 2020

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Primary Care Provider Enrollment for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Redistribution

Current Situation

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 (BNT162b2) vaccine on December 11, 2020 and the Moderna COVID-19 (mRNA-1273) vaccine on December 18, 2020. Additional vaccine products are currently under development. Due to extremely limited quantities, vaccine allocation and distribution are progressing in a phased approach established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The ACIP’s allocation plan was developed to balance preventing morbidity and mortality, preserving societal functions, and mitigating health inequities.

Monterey County is currently in Phase 1a Tier I and is transitioning to Phase 1a Tier II of the ACIP and CDPH proposed phased allocation plan outlined in table 1 below. Phase 1a Tier II includes primary care providers. Rollout of Tier I and II is occurring in a stepwise fashion. There may be some overlap of tiers as vaccine supplies increase and vaccination progresses.

At this time, Monterey County Health Department recommends that primary care providers consider receiving vaccine at their offices in order to vaccinate themselves and their office staff.

Providers may receive doses of vaccine via direct distribution from the manufacturer. In order to receive a direct distribution, providers must order either Moderna vaccine in quantities of 100 doses, or the Pfizer vaccine in quantities of 975 doses. Providers that do not have enough staff to warrant direct distribution may consider receiving doses of vaccine via redistribution from the Monterey County Health Department in smaller quantities. In either

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case, providers must meet all CDC and State requirements to receive, store and administer vaccine which includes recording vaccination information in the state immunization registry. Providers must also apply to receive vaccine via the State portal, called COVIDReadi. Once approved, providers can request and receive vaccine at their offices. Approved providers will not only be able to vaccinate their staff now but will also be able to vaccinate their patients when those patient groups are eligible to be vaccinated.

Providers that wish to receive distributions or redistributions are encouraged to follow the directions provided in this Advisory.

Providers that will not be pursuing distributions or redistributions of vaccine will have other options made available to them and their staff in the near future. The Health Department will issue another alert when those options are available.

Recommendation:

Providers should consider receiving vaccine at their offices in order to vaccinate themselves, their office staff and eventually their patients.

1. Enroll in the CDPH vaccine program called COVIDReadi.
   a. Providers should first read the instructions for enrolling found at: https://eziz.org/assets/other/IMM-1295.pdf.
   b. Then, follow the step-by-step directions found at: https://eziz.org/assets/other/IMM-1303.pdf.
   c. Once your application has been approved by CDPH and your practice falls into a tier currently being vaccinated (see table below), primary care practices can request and may be approved to receive COVID-19 vaccine to vaccinate individuals in their respective tier.

2. Take steps to prepare to vaccinate office staff, and eventually patients.
   b. Communicate with your staff and patients about the need for a phased rollout of COVID-19 vaccine nationally, statewide, and locally.
   c. Determine the number of health care workers in your clinic.
   d. Identify and train clinic staff who will be providing COVID-19 immunizations to each other and to patients.
   e. Designate a primary vaccine coordinator and back-up coordinator. This person will be responsible for communicating with the Monterey County Health Department, enrolling in the statewide system for ordering vaccine, and overseeing the storage, handling, and administration of vaccine according to state and federal guidelines.

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f. Assess your facility’s capabilities for storing and administering vaccine according to Vaccine for Children (VFC) guidelines: [https://eziz.org/vaccine-management/](https://eziz.org/vaccine-management/).
g. Ensure that your clinic is enrolled in the CAIR2 Immunization Registry. Enrollment is a requirement to receive approval by CDPH to receive vaccine. Information on how to enroll is available at [http://cairweb.org/enroll-now/](http://cairweb.org/enroll-now/).
h. Identify and train staff who will be responsible for tracking doses and reporting administered doses in the CAIR2 Immunization Registry.
i. Develop a system for determining how your clinic can identify and schedule patients in each of the Phases and Tiers.
j. Monitor information released by ACIP, CDPH, and Monterey County Health Department on updates to phased allocation plans and vaccine products.

Table 1. ACIP and CDPH Proposed Phased Allocation Plan

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<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Groups Recommended for Vaccination</th>
<th>Status</th>
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| 1a Tier I | Workers in:  
- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals  
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable adults; also includes residents of these facilities  
- Paramedics, EMTs, and others providing emergency medical services  
- Dialysis centers | In progress |
| 1a Tier II | Workers in:  
- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care  
- Home health care and in-home supportive services  
- Community health workers, including promotoras  
- Public health field staff  
- Primary care clinics including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics | In transition |
| 1a Tier III | Workers in:  
- Specialty clinics  
- Laboratory workers  
- Dental and other oral health clinics  
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers | In planning, pending additional vaccine allocation and successful immunization of earlier tiers |
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<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Note</th>
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| 1b   | Tier I   | - Persons 75 years and older  
- Frontline essential workers in the following sectors:  
  - Education & Child Care  
  - Emergency Services  
  - Food & Agriculture | In planning, pending additional vaccine allocation and successful immunization of earlier tiers |
| 1b   | Tier II  | - Persons 65-74 with high risk medical conditions  
- Persons in congregate settings at high risk for outbreaks  
  - Incarcerated  
  - Experiencing homelessness  
- Frontline essential workers in:  
  - Critical manufacturing  
  - Facilities & Services  
  - Transportation & Logistics | In planning, pending additional vaccine allocation and successful immunization of earlier tiers |
| 1c   |         | - Persons 65 to 74 years of age  
- Persons 16 to 64 years of age with high risk conditions  
- Other essential workers in the following sectors:  
  - Chemical  
  - Communications & IT  
  - Defense  
  - Energy  
  - Finance  
  - Government Operations, Community-based  
  - Water & Wastewater | In planning, pending additional vaccine allocation and successful immunization of earlier tiers |
| 2    | All people 16 years of age and older that are not included in Phase 1a, b or c and who are recommended for vaccination | In planning, pending additional vaccine allocation and successful immunization of earlier tiers |

*Note: the proposed phased allocation plan could be altered at any time due to changes in vaccine supply, ACIP guidance, or CDPH recommendations.*

**Additional Resources**

- Monterey County COVID-19 website: [www.montereycountycovid19.org](http://www.montereycountycovid19.org)
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Website: [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html)
- CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Website: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19Vaccine.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19Vaccine.aspx)