

12/4

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine News & Updates

Members (CEOs, CMOs, COOs, CFOs),

Following is the latest news on COVID-19 vaccination plans. We remain in a very dynamic state with information being updated daily. CCALAC will get information out to members as quickly as possible. Please email Matt Moyer at mmoyer@ccalac.org or Erika Rogers at erogers@ccalac.org with any questions.

LADPH Engagement

CCALAC is actively engaged with the LA County Department of Public Health (LADPH). Our teams are meeting on a biweekly basis to discuss COVID-19 vaccine implementation and distribution plans. We are also participating in the LA County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination Workgroup, which met for the first time this week. Detailed slides from that meeting are attached.

Vaccines Under Review

Two vaccines will be reviewed under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) this month.

- Pfizer
 - FDA review scheduled for 12/10
 - Ultra-cold temperature and dry ice storage requirements
 - 2 doses: 21 days apart
 - 95% efficacy in trials
- Moderna
 - FDA review scheduled for 12/17
 - 1 month in standard refrigeration; Ultra-cold temperature to keep longer & dry ice storage requirements
 - 2 doses; 28 days apart
 - 94% efficacy in trials

Vaccine Administration/Distribution

While the State is the lead agency for vaccines with the federal government, LADPH is responsible for planning at the regional level. CCALAC is providing data and information to LADPH to inform their regional approach and planning.

The State will implement vaccine distribution in a multi-phased approach. Phase 1 target groups are:

- Phase 1a - Health care workers; long term care facility residents
- Phase 1b - Essential workers
- Phase 1c - Adults with high-risk medical conditions; 65 and older

Health center staff are in phase 1a, tier 2.

Approval/Registration Process

CDPH will oversee registration for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program through the application portal. While the state hosts the portal, LADPH will decide which providers will receive the vaccines.

The only “pre-approved” facilities in LA County for initial receipt of vaccines are a few LA County DHS hospitals and Cedars Sinai since they have ultra-low temperature freezer capacity. Additional health care entities will be invited to apply for approval in the coming weeks. LADPH will assist FQHCs after they are registered. More details regarding registration are provided via the [Vaccine Program](#) of CDPH’s website for when registration will be open for medical practices and the requirements for participation.

Vaccination for Health Center Staff

California is expected to receive its first vaccine shipment in mid to late December of roughly 327,000 vaccines. CPCA reports there are about 2.4 million health care workers in CA. Health center staff are in phase 1a, tier 2. There is an expectation that by mid-end of January ALL health care workers will have the option to be immunized.

Given that the first vaccines may become available in LA County for phase 1a before health centers are approved to receive/administer COVID vaccines, it is likely that clinic health care workers that are prioritized in Phase 1a will not receive the vaccination from their employer, but rather through some other channel associated with pre-approved entities. We do not know how many vaccines will be initially available in LA County for vaccinating health care workers. LADPH is using data to inform prioritization.

Freezers/Storage

Shipment and storage for these initial approved vaccines requires low temperature (especially Pfizer with ultra-low temp requirements). As shared by CPCA, the difficulty of storage and bulk ordering requirements make use of the Pfizer vaccine “highly impractical” for health centers. Given the limited supply of these first vaccines and because additional vaccines are expected to receive approval in the coming months, **the CDC, CDPH and LADPH do not recommend health care entities purchase freezers at this time, as freezing and refrigeration requirements are expected to evolve and change.**

It is not known at this time which vaccines will be available when for distribution in LA County. CPCA shared that Moderna’s vaccine is likely to be the first Covid vaccine that might realistically available to health centers, but it is also possible that vaccines approved early next year will be better options for health centers.

Direct Relief Survey Re Back-Up Power, Deadline Dec. 8

Considering the yearly challenges health centers face from wildfires and Public Safety Power Shut Off events, and anticipating that health centers may need to increase refrigerator/freezer vaccine storage capacity, our partners at Direct Relief are exploring possible back-up emergency power partnerships with health centers. Please complete the [CHC Back Up Power Needs Assessment survey](#) to provide them with additional information to inform this effort.