



# COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization

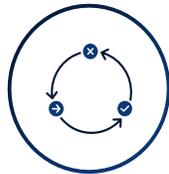
January 7, 2021

# COVID-19 vaccination phases in Kansas



## About this document

- As COVID-19 vaccines are approved by the FDA, the federal government is supplying states with limited doses on a weekly basis.
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has created a list of populations, spread across 5 phases, to prioritize for vaccination
- This document lays out Kansas' current prioritized vaccination plan and provides more detailed definitions of identified population segments



## Our methodology

- To develop this phasing, we segmented and prioritized Kansas' population based on public health risk and criticality to state infrastructure
- Throughout the process, we have used an equity lens to ensure inclusion of socially and medically vulnerable communities our prioritization
- The Governor and KDHE engaged an independent advisory committee to review and co-develop these phases, ensuring input broad input
- We have also relied on the expert opinion of the CDC and ACIP recommendations
- The COVID-19 environment is dynamic, and thus we will continue to adapt these phases and priority groups as we learn more about the disease situation in Kansas and across the country



## How we will operationalize these phases

- KDHE will maintain a flexible approach to moving through phases, prioritizing the vaccination of current phase populations and maximizing speed under federal supply constraints
- We are engaging local health departments, providers (hospitals, clinics, pharmacies) etc. across the state to distribute and administer the vaccine
- We will ensure equity throughout the vaccine distribution process, e.g. by prioritizing providers, such as safety net clinics in vulnerable communities and proactive outreach and communications to those all those communities at risk

# Kansas Vaccination Phases | By Population

Phase

1

2

3

4

5

Population

- Healthcare workers
- Residents or patients in Long-term care (LTC), senior housing or LTC-supported independent living
- Workers critical to pandemic response continuity

- Persons Aged 65+
- Congregate settings
- High-contact critical workers

- Aged 16-64 with severe medical risks
- Other critical workers

- Aged 16-64 with other medical risks

- Rest of pop. 16+
- Children\*

\*Subject to further research on Vaccine risks and effectiveness for children.

Note: Dates of phases are dependent upon vaccine supply.

KDHE adopted federal recommendations to assess exposure risks associated with workplaces and living arrangements



Federal guidelines<sup>1</sup> consider the number and nature of contacts required by different occupations

In addition to health risks associated with **clinical outcomes and death**, KDHE considered the following exposure-related risks in our approach



**Proximity**



Residents and staff are less than 6ft away from one another



**Type of contact**



Exposure to droplets, shared surfaces, common items



**Contact duration**



Average interactions last more than 10 min



**Challenges to implement protective measures**



Space is indoors, confined, or it is not possible to control with whom workers will interact

1. See DHS, [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response](#) and CDC [guidelines for those living in close quarters, shelters, nursing homes](#) and on [how the coronavirus spreads](#)

# Phase 1 | Healthcare workers: Identifying characteristics and working definition



## Definition

Paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare or healthcare-associated jobs, who are unable to work from home and may be directly or indirectly exposed to patients or infectious materials as a result of their jobs



## Description

Workers with any of the following features:

- Required to regularly enter a hospital (inpatient) or outpatient clinical setting;
- Involved in pandemic response (e.g., testing centers);
- In a healthcare or healthcare-associated setting, in contact with patients or infectious materials;



## Examples of groups included

- Staff in long-term care facility
- Workers in direct contact with patients, e.g., MD/DO/DPM, nurses, EMTs, clinical students and trainees
- Diagnostic labs, phlebotomists, pandemic health workers (e.g., individuals performing COVID tests)
- Mental healthcare providers, pharmacy staff, non-medical staff – if exposed to patients or infectious materials;
- Healthcare-associated contractors, including food, waste management etc.
- Dentists, physical therapists, professionals performing elective procedures
- Home care workers, CMS-designated caretaker
- Morticians, forensic and funeral service workers;
- Staff in FQHCs, CHCs, safety-net/ free clinics, faith-based outreach clinics (inclusive of state-funded clinics)
- Home health aides, nursing assistants

## Phase 2 | Congregate settings: identifying characteristics and working definition



### Definition

Anyone living or working in licensed congregate settings and other special care or congregate environments



### Description

- Licensed congregate settings are facilities licensed by the state or local government, that provide housing or care arrangements and where social distancing is not possible; they provide a form of social service or healthcare (or healthcare-associated) service
- Settings included in this phase are monitored by the state or the local government, or house vulnerable populations under care, e.g. in-home care and retirement facilities
- Risk is increased because of:
  - Proximity, i.e., residents and staff are less than 6ft away from one another
  - Type of contact, i.e., exposure to droplets, shared surfaces, common items
  - Duration, i.e., average interactions last more than 10 min
  - Potentially high number of contacts and, sometimes, difficulties to implement protective measures



### Examples of groups included

- Homeless shelters and other homeless housing settings and dwelling places
- Congregate childcare institutions, adult and child protective services
- Emergency shelters or safe houses for victims of domestic violence
- Corrections facilities, including jails and juvenile justice facilities
- Behavioral Health institutions (including mental health institutions) and residential treatment centers
- Adult care homes, residents and staff in home plus facilities not covered in phase 1
- Senior living homes
- Home care givers (paid or unpaid), personal care aides

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

### January 7, 2021

There are two authorized and approved vaccines to prevent COVID-19, Moderna and Pfizer. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are a 2-dose series, with the second vaccine needed 21 to 28 days, respectively, after administration of the first dose. The Pfizer vaccine is not for children younger than 16 years of age and the Moderna vaccine is not for children under 18 years of age.

### Kansas News

Kansas received its first shipment of Pfizer vaccines on December 14-15, the first Moderna vaccines were received the week of December 21.

#### Pfizer Vaccine Allocations

Week of December 14 – 24,000  
Week of December 21 – 17,550 (LTC)  
Week of December 28 – 17,550 (LTC)  
Week of January 4 – 17,550 (LTC) +  
2<sup>nd</sup> dose of initial 24,000  
Anticipated Week of January 11 – 17,500 (LTC)

#### Moderna Vaccine Allocations

Week of December 21 – 49,000  
Week of December 28 – 17,000  
Week of January 4 – 16,900  
Anticipated Week of January 11 – 17,000

The Pfizer doses are being given to the **Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program** through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which provides vaccinations to participating long-term care facility residents and staff through CVS and/or Walgreens. The program started providing vaccinations to long-term care facilities the week of December 28. The coordination of vaccination activities will occur directly between CVS/Walgreens and those facilities participating in the program. An FAQ is available at: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships-faqs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships-faqs.html).

The Moderna supply continues to be distributed to hospitals, local health departments, federally qualified health centers and long-term care facilities that opted-out of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program.

The initial vaccine distribution is geared towards healthcare providers and long-term care residents, in line with CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. Distribution among these groups is expected to continue through January.

#### Doses Administered

Last week, CDC began reporting a [data tracker](#) showcasing where vaccines were being administered. There is a reporting delay in the system and not in the distribution of vaccine – also note that of the 17.28 million doses CDC has reported delivered in the U.S., it is only showing 5.3 million administered.

In Kansas, vaccine administrators are required to report information to both a federal system, Vaccine Finder, and a state system, WebIZ. Both systems require provider training at the respective government levels. Training for the state system happens when a provider becomes an authorized user. The federal government provides training. Additionally, there have been delays with users gaining registration information.

Through the WebIZ system, Kansas is reporting 45,872 doses administered as of 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6. KDHE will update its website, [www.KansasVaccine.gov](http://www.KansasVaccine.gov), by 10 a.m. Monday – Friday with the administration number from the previous day.

It is anticipated that over the next several weeks, the trackers will catch up with what Kansas providers are administering. Additionally, Kansas is reviewing options for dashboards to relay numbers of vaccines administered in Kansas on a regular basis.

## Communication

- A new website, [www.KansasVaccine.gov](http://www.KansasVaccine.gov) has been released and is being updated regularly with new information.
- KDHE is disseminating these weekly updates on vaccine developments to partners every Wednesday or other date, as indicated.
- Other communications are in development and will be communicated as available.

## Resources

- CDC - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html)