

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COVID-19 Vaccine

DEFIANCE, OHIO- The Defiance General Health District (DCGHD) is working with area hospitals to vaccinate those persons in Phase 1A. We have plans in place to get the vaccine out as quickly as possible, following Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Guidelines.

As safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines become available, the vaccine will be strategically and equitably distributed, beginning with those who are most at risk for COVID-19 complications and those working on the frontlines during the pandemic response as outlined by ODH as group 1A which includes:

- Health care 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.

***All available vaccines will be administered to those who **choose** to receive it.

Phase 1B of Ohio's Vaccination Program will be focused on reaching critical groups: Ohioans age 65 and older, those living with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset medical disorders, and adults who work in schools.

“At this time, we do not know when vaccines will be available for phase 1B or how it will be distributed. The State of Ohio is still working on the plan for the next phase. When we have more information we will post it on our website and social media,” stated Jamie Gerken, Health Commissioner. “We will continue to follow the guidance of ODH as more vaccine arrives and expands to new groups. As more vaccine becomes available, the general public will be able to get vaccinated as well. The timeframe for general public distribution will be determined by ODH.”

The DCGHD website and our social media platforms will be updated with new vaccination information as it is received.

Stay Informed:

- DCGHD website: <http://defiancecohealth.org/coronavirus/>
- Ohio Department of Health website: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>
- Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Program:
 - Go to: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov> and click “COVID-19 Vaccination Program”