

Vaccine Distribution: Phases 1A and 1B

UPDATED 1/6/2021

The COVID-19 vaccine is a critical tool to safely reach the other side of this pandemic. Through efficient and effective distribution of the vaccine, we can suppress the spread of the virus, save as many lives as possible, and rebuild our economy. Illinois will only distribute a vaccine that is deemed safe. As we move through phases of vaccine distribution, the administration will ensure it reaches Illinoisans as quickly as possible using an equity-centric approach as we have done throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As we move forward, it is critical that Illinoisans continue to follow public health recommendations to suppress the spread of the virus until vaccines are ready for widespread distribution.

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) — an esteemed group of public health experts and medical professionals — develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control disease in the United States. The Committee's recommendations are then approved by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

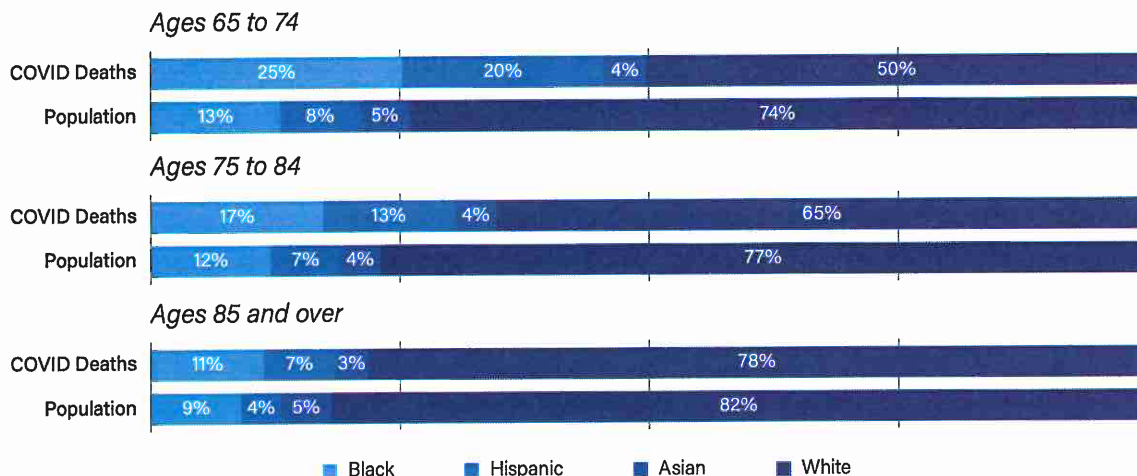
With the demand for COVID-19 vaccines expected to exceed supply during the first months of the national COVID-19 vaccination program, ACIP recommended the following priority groups – those at the highest risk of exposure, morbidity and mortality – receive the first doses of vaccines before the general public:

- **Phase 1A:** health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities
- **Phase 1B:** persons aged ≥75 years and non-health care frontline essential workers

ILLINOIS' EQUITY-CENTRIC VACCINATION APPROACH

As a result of longstanding disparities in healthcare system access and delivery, Black and Brown Americans have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, including suffering a disproportionate number of deaths. In Illinois, Black and Brown residents are more likely to die at a younger age from COVID-19. While the average white Illinoisan who has lost their life to COVID-19 died at age 81, that figure drops to age 72 for Black Illinoisans and 68 for Hispanic Illinoisans.

AGE AND RACIAL BREAKDOWN OF COVID-19 DEATHS COMPARED TO ILLINOIS POPULATION



As Illinois continues to scale its vaccination program, Governor Pritzker, Dr. Ezike, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the entire administration are committed to putting equity at the forefront, as it has been throughout the COVID-19 response efforts. Building on ACIP's recommendations, the state of Illinois is lowering the age eligibility by 10 years to ensure equitable access to the vaccine's protections, prioritizing residents age 65 and over in Phase 1B. In doing so, Illinois seeks to save lives in a truly equitable manner, recognizing that multi-generational institutional racism has reduced access to care, caused higher rates of environmental and social risk, and increased co-morbidities for people of color. As public health experts continue to review the federal government's recommendations for Phase 1C in the context of Illinois' data, Governor Pritzker and Dr. Ezike will ensure the state's exit plan for this pandemic centers on the very structural inequalities that allowed COVID-19 to rage through our most vulnerable communities in the first place.

PHASE 1A AND 1B IN ILLINOIS

Phase 1A

The first phase of vaccinations includes frontline healthcare workers as well as residents and staff of long-term care facilities. The goal is to fortify the healthcare workforce by removing the most exposed workers from the cycle of illness and infection as well as protect our most vulnerable residents. Most recent evaluations of Illinois' healthcare workforce and nursing home and long-term care facility residents and staff estimate approximately 850,000 Illinoisans qualify for Phase 1A. Healthcare vaccinations began on December 15, 2020, with the federal government's nursing home and long-term care vaccination program delivering its first shots on December 28, 2020. The state estimates that all interested residents in Phase 1A will be vaccinated in the coming weeks.

Phase 1B

Once Illinois makes substantial progress in Phase 1A and federal vaccine deliveries increase, Phase 1B will include frontline essential workers and residents age 65 and over. The frontline essential workers designation includes many residents who carry a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure because of their work duties, often because they are unable to work from home, and/or they must work closely to others without being able to socially distance. This include first responders, education, food and agriculture, manufacturing, corrections workers and inmates, USPS workers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and staff at shelters and day cares. To provide more equitable vaccine access to elder populations given data showing people of color die of COVID-19 at younger ages, Illinois lowered the age eligibility recommended by ACIP by 10 years, from age 75 to age 65. Illinois has 1.3 million people who qualify as "frontline essential workers" and 1.9 million adults age 65 and over, totaling 3.2 million eligible Illinoisans.

PREVENTING INFECTION WHILE VACCINATIONS CONTINUE

While Illinoisans get vaccinated for COVID-19 and build immunity, it's vital that residents continue to take safety precautions to prevent additional infections from occurring. Wearing a mask and practicing social distancing and hand hygiene are proven methods of reducing virus transmission and can help save lives.

For the latest information on vaccine distribution in Illinois, please visit the IDPH website: dph.illinois.gov.

PHASE 1A



**FRONTLINE
HEALTHCARE WORKERS**



**LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY
RESIDENTS AND STAFF**

PHASE 1B



**FRONTLINE
ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

1.3 MILLION IN ILLINOIS



**RESIDENTS AGE
65 AND OVER**

1.9 MILLION IN ILLINOIS

Including, but not limited to, the following occupations:

- **First responders:** Fire, law enforcement, 911 workers, security personnel, school officers
- **Education:** Teachers, principals, student support, student aids, day care worker
- **Food and agriculture:** Processing, plants, veterinary health, livestock services, animal care
- **Manufacturing:** Industrial production of good for distribution to retail, wholesale or other manufactures
- **Corrections workers and inmates:** Jail officers, juvenile facility staff, workers providing in-person support, inmates
- **USPS workers**
- **Public transit workers:** Flight crew, bus drivers, train conductors, taxi drivers, para-transit drivers, in-person support, ride sharing services
- **Grocery store workers:** Baggers, cashiers, stockers, pick-up, customer service
- **Shelters and day care staff:** Homeless shelter, women's shelter, adult day/drop-in program, sheltered workshop, psycho-social rehab

COVID-19 COMMUNITY VACCINATION PROGRAM



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Opportunity Exploration

IDPH Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Phase 1A

- Healthcare Personnel
- Long Term Care Facility Residents

Phase 1B

- Frontline essential workers (ie: first responders, education, day care, etc)
- Shelters, Adult Care & Inmates
- All Illinois residents age 65 and over

Phase 1C *

- People with high-risk comorbid conditions aged 16-64
- Other essential workers

Phase 2 **

- Remaining population

* Still in draft form

** More guidance to come pending ACIP recommendations









Source: IDPH, <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccination-plan>



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH Opportunity Exploration



Staff Required to administer COVID-19 Vaccine

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| 1 |  | Screener | Someone must wait by the entrance to screen patients prior to entry |
| 4 |  | Vaccinators | Administer the COVID-19 vaccine |
| 4 |  | Receptionists | Schedule, register, and check-in community members the day of their appointment |
| 1 |  | Vaccine Runner | Oversee proper pick up, temperature control, and disposal of vaccines |
| 1 |  | Observer | Someone must be present to monitor patients after vaccine for 15 minutes
<i>(30 minutes for people with history of anaphylaxis)</i> |
| 1 |  | Safety Officer | One medical safety officer must be present to oversee and enforce proper safety protocols (provided by Cook County Health) |
| 1 |  | Site Supervisor | Supervisor is responsible for promotion, reporting , and coordination with school district superintendent, CCH, CCDPH, and other stakeholders. |
| 1 |  | Security Officer | Security officer present for security of vaccine inventory |

Supplies

Administrative Supplies

- Gymnasium or other large space *
- Computers and wifi connection *
- Tables *
- Chairs *
- Phone*
- Printer/Scanner*
- Pens*
- Paper*
- File Folders*
- Vaccine record cards

** Indicates that a site must be able to provide*

Medical Supplies

- Syringes and needles
- Epinephrine
- Bronchodialator
- Oral antihistamine
- IM Diphenhydramine
- AED
- Alcohol Swabs
- Gloves and other PPE
- Gauze
- Silk Tape
- Sharps Bin
- Band aids
- Thermometer

Storage and Handling

Storage without (-112°F to -76°F) freezer capabilities

- If an ultra-low temperature freezer is not available, the thermal container in which the vaccine arrives may be used as **temporary** storage when consistently re-filled to the top container with dry ice
 - The thermal container maintains a temperature range of -90°C to -60°C (-130°F to -76°F)
 - Storage within this temperature range is not considered an excursion from the recommended storage condition
 - Three cycles of dry ice refilling every 5 days for a total of 15 days is acceptable
 - Thermal container storage
 - -beyond 15 days is disallowed

Thawed Under Refrigeration

- Thaw and then store undiluted vials in the refrigerator 2°C to 8°C (35°F to 46°F) for up to 5 days (120 hours)
 - A carton of 25 vials may take up to 2 or 3 hours, respectively, to thaw in the refrigerator, whereas a fewer number of vials will thaw in less time

Interim Post-Vaccination Considerations for School Employees

(1.21.21 Interim guidance, subject to change)

Table 1: Considerations for Persons with Systemic Signs and Symptoms Pre- and Post- COVID-19 Vaccination

Recommended Infection Prevention and Control Strategies	Status of Individual with Systemic Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 Infection ^{1,2}			
	Unvaccinated	Received COVID-19 Vaccination in the prior 3 days (including day of vaccination, which is considered Day 1) ⁷		Partially ⁴ or Fully ⁵ Vaccinated
		Symptoms unlikely to be from COVID-19 vaccination ¹ (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea, loss of taste/smell)	Symptoms <i>may</i> be vaccine related, possible COVID-19, or other unrelated illness ² (e.g., chills, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, fatigue)	
Exclude from School	YES	YES	NO- if afebrile ³ and symptoms ² occur within the first 48 hours and feels well enough to work YES – if fever of 100.4F or greater or if symptoms persist for more than 2 days.	YES
Refer for Clinical Evaluation	YES Refer to Row D in Exclusion Guidance Decision Tree.	YES	YES – if symptoms do not improve and persist for more than 2 days. Not Recommended - if symptoms resolve within 2 days.	YES Refer to Row D in Exclusion Guidance Decision Tree.
Perform COVID-19 Test (Healthcare Provider may decide to test based on clinical assessment.)	YES NOT Recommended – if less than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.	YES Not Recommended – if less than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test	YES – if symptoms do not improve and persist for more than 2 days. Not Recommended if symptoms resolve within 2 days Not Recommended – if less than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test	NOT Recommended – if less than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.
If SARS-CoV-2 test Positive : Refer to Row A in Exclusion Guidance Decision Tree. If SARS-CoV-2 test Negative ⁶ : Refer to Row B in Exclusion Guidance Decision Tree.				
Place in Isolation	YES – if SARS-CoV-2 test Positive : Stay home at least ten calendar days from onset of symptoms AND for 24 hours with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) AND improvement of symptoms.		NO- if afebrile ³ and symptoms occur within the first 48 hours and feels well enough to work. Recommended - if symptoms persist for more than 2 days and pending test results. YES - if SARS-CoV-2 test Positive .	YES – if SARS-CoV-2 test Positive

Table 2: Considerations for Asymptomatic Persons Pre- and Post- COVID-19 Vaccination

Recommended Infection Prevention and Control Strategies	Status of Asymptomatic Individual		
	Unvaccinated	Received COVID-19 Vaccination in the prior 3 days (including day of vaccination, which is considered Day 1)	Partially ² or Fully ³ Vaccinated
Place in Quarantine if named as a Close Contact to a Known Case of COVID-19	<p>YES – if no history of previous positive test for SARS-CoV-2; or if greater than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.</p> <p>Not Recommended – if less than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.</p>	<p>YES – if no history of previous positive test for SARS-CoV-2; or if greater than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.</p> <p>Not Recommended – if less than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.</p>	<p>YES – if no history of previous positive test for SARS-CoV-2; or if greater than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.</p> <p>Not Recommended – if less than 90 days (3 months) from last positive test.</p>

1 Presence of ANY systemic signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea, sore throat, loss of taste or smell) or another infectious etiology (e.g., [influenza](#)) that are not typical for post-vaccination signs and symptoms.

2 Signs and symptoms *that may be* from either COVID-19 vaccination, SARS-CoV-2 infection, or another infectious etiology (e.g., fever of 100.4 or higher, fatigue, headache, chills, myalgia, arthralgia). **For symptomatic persons who are close contacts to a COVID-19 case, isolate, send home, and refer for testing and clinical evaluation.**

3 Must be afebrile for at least 24 hours to return to work.

4 Person receiving one dose of a two-dose vaccine series.

5 Person receiving one dose in a one-dose vaccine regimen or two doses of a two-dose vaccine series AND is two full weeks post-completion of vaccine series.

6 If performed, a negative SARS-CoV-2 antigen test in a person who has signs and symptoms that are typical for COVID-19 infection should be confirmed by SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), e.g., RT-PCR test.

7 Individuals who are close contacts to COVID-19 case should follow quarantine guidelines; symptomatic close contacts should be tested for COVID-19.

Post-Vaccination Signs and Symptoms: General Information

- Depending on vaccine product, age group, and vaccine dose, approximately 80–89% of vaccinated persons develop at least one local symptom and 55–83% develop at least one systemic symptom following vaccination.
- Signs & symptoms most typically seen after COVID-19 vaccination include:
 - Local: pain, swelling, or redness at injection site
 - Systemic: Fever, fatigue, headache, chills, myalgia (muscle aches/pain), and arthralgia (joint aches/pain)
- Immediate hypersensitive reactions (e.g., anaphylaxis, urticaria), and injection site symptoms are not consistent with SARS-CoV-2 infection and should be managed per usual protocols for vaccine side effects.
- Based on preliminary data from mRNA COVID-19 vaccine trials indicate that most systemic post-vaccination signs and symptoms are mild to moderate in severity, occur within the first three days of vaccination (the day of vaccination and following two days, with most occurring the day after vaccination), resolve within 1-2 days of onset, and are more frequent and severe following the second dose and among younger persons compared to those who are older (>55 years).

Patience urged for next phase of shots

Starting Monday, more than 3M in state will be eligible

By **Jamie Munks** Chicago Tribune

Illinois officials are urging patience when the next phase of the massive COVID-19 vaccination effort launches Monday because while about a quarter of the state's population will be eligible to be immunized, the vaccine supply remains severely limited and appointments will be hard to come by.

People 65 and older, teachers, first responders, grocery store workers and others deemed "essential workers," a group that totals more than 3 million people, will all be eligible for a shot.

But the state has received less than a million doses since the effort began in mid-December, and just 126,000 doses outside of Chicago are expected to be delivered to the state next week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker said at his weekly coronavirus briefing.

"There will be far greater demand than supply for at least the near term," Pritzker said, while promising appointments will be easier to come by as shipments increase.

The state prepared for the rollout of the next phase of vaccinations while also rolling back restrictions in some parts of the state, with [limited indoor dining on track to resume](#) in Chicago and suburban Cook County on Saturday.

With two shots needed to reap the full coverage against COVID-19 from available vaccines, it's unclear how long it will take to get to the next group eligible under federal guidelines, which includes people with medical conditions that put them at risk, much less to those who aren't given priority because of their job or coronavirus vulnerability.

Illinois began vaccinating front-line health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities in mid-December. "Nearly all" health care workers included in the first phase have now had the opportunity to get vaccinated, Pritzker said on Friday.

The next group of eligible recipients can make appointments starting Monday through Illinois National Guard-staffed vaccination sites, local health departments and pharmacies.

Walgreens, CVS and Jewel-Osco locations are among those that will begin taking appointments Monday, with Mariano's, Hy-Vee and Kroger pharmacies doing the same by Feb. 1, Pritzker said.

While state officials emphasized the need for appointments to receive a vaccination, some downstate counties have announced that drive-thru clinics are offering shots to those eligible in phases 1a and 1b on a first-come, first-served basis.

And though the state considers Monday to be the official start to the next phase, some counties and health systems that had largely gotten through the first phase of vaccinations had already moved on to phase 1b shots.

The state is launching a new website, which will be available through [coronavirus.illinois.gov](#) once the next phase is underway, to provide information about making appointments, Pritzker said.

"When we have a steady stream of vaccine coming in from the federal government, we will launch walk-in locations and around-the-clock operations," Pritzker said.

The state's top public health official, Dr. Ngozi Ezike, said the Illinois Department of Public Health has made it clear that those who are administering the coronavirus vaccine must follow the state-set rules for eligibility, and not allow influential individuals to jump the line.

"We've worked really hard to make sure that we're not making exceptions just based on requests from other individuals," Ezike said.

"Does IDPH have the ability to look at every place that vaccines are administered to make sure that no one was inappropriately given a vaccine? No, but we are collecting as much data as we can and we are asking that people certify which group they actually belong to," she said.

The Democratic governor continued to criticize the federal coronavirus response under former Republican President Donald Trump, and lauded President Joe Biden's response plans in the first days of his administration.

Pritzker said he has "made clear" to the Illinois congressional delegation that federal lawmakers should immediately take up legislation that would devote billions of dollars to expanding vaccination centers and mobile clinics.

Pritzker said he was "troubled" to see the slow pace at which a federal partnership program with pharmacies was vaccinating residents of long-term care facilities, who are considered among the most vulnerable because of their age, underlying health conditions and because they live in a congregate care setting.

The federal government has set aside 524,050 doses of Illinois' vaccine allotment for that program, but only 93,683 of those shots have been administered, Pritzker said.

As of Thursday night, 922,325 doses of vaccine had been delivered to Illinois, a number that includes what Chicago, which gets its own shipments, has received.

The metrics the state uses to determine restrictions continue to be moving in the right direction. As of Friday, all 11 regions of the state as defined by Pritzker's reopening plan have emerged from stricter rules put in place statewide in November, when Illinois saw an aggressive fall resurgence of COVID-19.

Chicago and suburban Cook County are poised to have limited indoor restaurant and bar service resume Saturday if current trends hold. That would allow bars and restaurants to reopen at 25% capacity or 25 people, whichever is less.

Among other loosened rules, gyms and fitness centers could reopen with 50% capacity limits and other public health precautions in place.

To qualify for eased restrictions, each of the 11 regions in Pritzker's plan must meet bench marks based on coronavirus positivity rates, available beds in intensive care units and hospital admissions for COVID-19.

Particularly with the presence in the state of a more contagious variant of COVID-19, the loosened restrictions "could be cut short, if we aren't extremely careful," Pritzker said.

"We continue to live in a perilous moment," Pritzker said. "Look around the nation, outside of Illinois, and you'll see the pandemic at its worst, in many places. The risk of a resurgence in Illinois, particularly with extremely contagious new variants, is serious."

Will and Kankakee counties saw limited indoor dining resume Thursday, but the prohibition, which has been widely flouted, remains in effect in the rest of the collar counties.

The Metro East region outside of St. Louis joins the regions comprising Chicago, suburban Cook County, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties in seeing capacity limits on retail stores raised to 50% from 25%, among other changes.

Pritzker's administration on Friday also released updated guidance on youth sports that sets different levels of allowable play based on the restrictions a region is under, and separates sports into different risk tiers depending on how much contact and how closely athletes are to one another during play.

The state reported 7,042 newly confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 Friday, which public health officials called an "artificial" increase because an adjustment was made to how the state reports probable cases. Over the past three days, the statewide new and probable coronavirus case tally fell between 4,000 and 5,000.

The state also reported another 95 deaths on Friday, raising the statewide death toll to 18,615. There have been 1,093,375 known cases of COVID-19 in Illinois throughout the course of the pandemic.

The new cases reported Friday came out of a batch of 125,831 tests conducted over the previous 24 hours. As of Thursday night, 3,179 people across the state were hospitalized with COVID-19 with 661 patients in intensive care units and 348 on ventilators.

Tribune's Dan Petrella contributed.

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