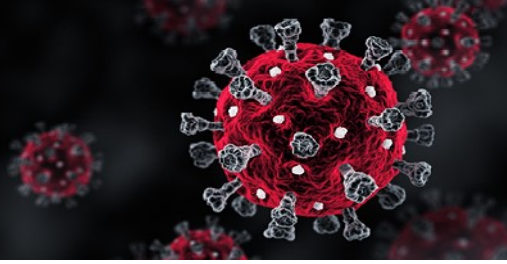


Vax Matters



December 4, 2020



In the News

Pfizer/BioNTech Gets UK Emergency OK

Britain is the first country to grant an emergency approval for a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, and officials said a mass immunization program would begin, [The Washington Post reported.](#)

CDC Advisory Panel Recommends Priority Populations for Initial Vaccine

Healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities would be the first recipients of a COVID-19 vaccine in the initial rollout under [recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) on Dec. 1 and sent to the CDC for final approval. According to the CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations](#), healthcare workers are defined as "all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials." NJDOH's vaccination planning aligns with including these populations in Phase 1A.

CDC Offers Quarantine Options

While continuing to recommend a 14-day quarantine period for people exposed to COVID-19, the [CDC has recommended](#) two options for ending the period earlier: 10 days if without a test and no symptoms or 7 days with a negative test and no symptoms. The CDC said the recommendations were made on extensive modeling.

And don't forget flu season...

Dec. 6-12 marks National Influenza Vaccination Week. [Learn more.](#)

Providers Signing On To Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

Throughout the state, healthcare providers are signing up to be able to provide COVID-19 vaccines. More than 300 provider sites in New Jersey have completed the steps to be enrolled as providers of the vaccine with more applications pending. This includes hospitals, local health departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers, among other providers.

"People are very interested in being part of the vaccination effort in one way or another," said Barbara Montana, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Communicable Disease Service/Vaccine Preventable Disease Program, New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH).

Under the agreements, providers must follow CDC guidelines in administering the vaccine and submit dosage data to the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS). Providers also must comply with CDC requirements for vaccine management including proper storage and handling of the vaccine, and must administer the vaccine regardless of the recipient's ability to pay.

A COVID on-demand webinar is available on the [NJIS page](#) for healthcare providers who will be administering the COVID-19 vaccine and is required for all vaccine coordinators.

Some facilities, such as local health departments, can also serve as a Point of Dispensing (POD) in their communities. [Pre-registration](#) is available for providers interested in hosting a POD.

*Questions
about PODs?
[Read more.](#)*



What is a POD?

A POD (Point of Dispensing) is a temporary site in the community where vaccines can be quickly administered to people in large numbers. POD sites will be set up within each county in New Jersey.

Pharmacies to Bring Vaccines to Long-Term Care Facilities

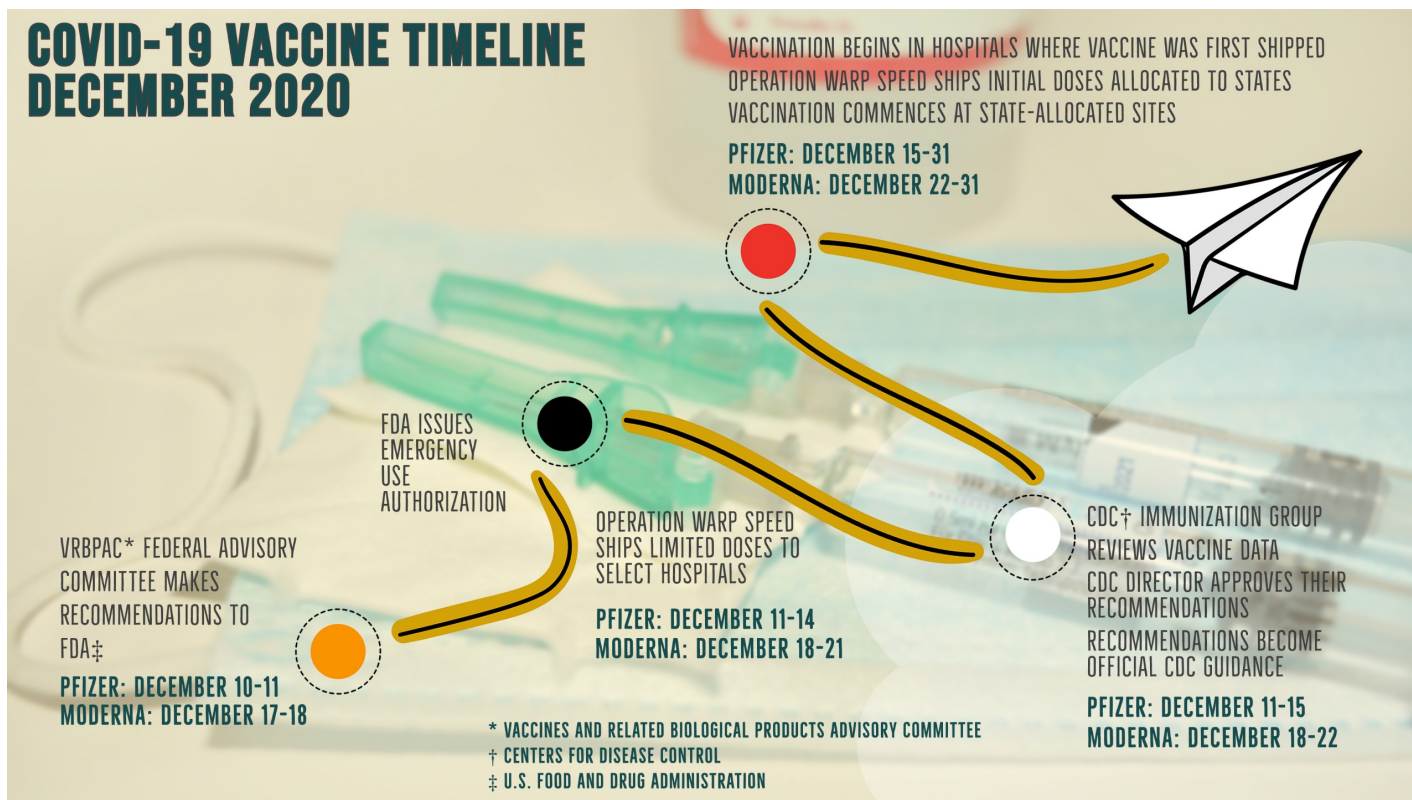
Residents and staff of long-term care facilities (LTCF) have been a priority throughout the state's vaccination planning. Reflecting this prioritization, New Jersey is participating in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. Federal agencies have partnered with CVS and Walgreens to provide end-to-end management of the vaccination process, including storage, handling, cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements. During the October sign-up period, NJDOH actively promoted this opportunity to long-term care providers and now is working with CDC and Operation Warp Speed to optimize the number of facilities accepted into the program.

For enrolled facilities, the partnership will facilitate safe and effective vaccination for their population as well as for those serving in LTCFs who are eligible in Phase 1A and who have not yet been vaccinated off-site. CVS and Walgreens will contact enrolled facilities to coordinate, share information, and, when the partnership is activated during Phase 1A, to begin scheduling on-site clinics. The partnership will begin with serving skilled nursing facilities and will expand to other types of long-term care settings. NJDOH has also started to establish alternative providers for settings that are not served by the partnership.

Partnering With Stakeholders To Help Build Public Awareness, Confidence in Vaccine

Building public awareness and education of the COVID-19 vaccine are critical parts of ensuring its success. As part of the state's outreach efforts, NJDOH Commissioner Judith Persichilli has been regularly engaging in calls with over 3,000 key stakeholders throughout the state to share information on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout and goals, and how stakeholders in turn can help build public confidence in the vaccine and the process.

The stakeholders represent 60 groups including interfaith-based organizations, pharmacies, higher education, elected officials, disabilities advocates, unions, healthcare associations, counties and local health departments, medical professional boards, law enforcement and first responders, among others. The commissioner has provided insights on the types of vaccines; timeframe for arrival; and the work of the Department's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force and its review of all actions through a health equity lens. For more on the state's efforts, visit NJDOH's [COVID-19 vaccination website](#).



Frequently Asked Questions

Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

In early clinical trials for various COVID-19 vaccines, only non-pregnant adults participated. For this reason, the vaccine will not be available for use in children when it first becomes available. The groups recommended to receive the vaccines could change in the future.

What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?

Emergency Use Authorization is the legal authority of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to authorize emergency use of an investigational medical product (e.g., vaccines prior to licensure, drugs prior to approval) or an unapproved use of an approved medical product to diagnose, treat, or prevent a serious or life-threatening disease. According to the FDA, an EUA is used "to help make medical products available as quickly as possible by allowing unapproved medical products to reach patients in need when there are no adequate, FDA-approved and available alternatives."

How many shots of COVID vaccine will be needed?

Both the Pfizer (21 days apart) and Moderna (28 days apart) vaccine candidates that are pending emergency use authorization require two shots. Other vaccines in clinical trials require two or one shots.

More questions? [Learn more.](#)

Resource Links

[NJDOH COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Plan at a Glance](#)

[How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine: Who Will Be Able to Get the Vaccine?](#)