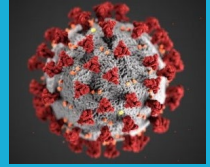


IOWA INTERIM COVID-19 VACCINATION STRATEGY



Executive Summary - DRAFT

October 16, 2020

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) developed this COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy in response to requests from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal partners. Iowa's vaccination strategy lays out the State's approach to ensuring broad-based coverage of an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine. Immunization is a critical component to reducing COVID-19-related illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths and to help restore overall societal functioning to pre-pandemic levels.

Introduction

The purpose of the Iowa COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy is to assist partners in a shared understanding of pandemic response which includes planning and strategy assumptions, roles and responsibilities, ordering and reporting, and mass vaccination tools to reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. IDPH will use this strategy to describe operational components for the distribution and administration of medical countermeasures such as vaccine.

Summary of Essential Program COVID-19 Vaccination Sections:

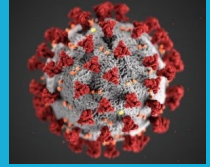
Phased Approach to COVID-19 Vaccination

Absent precise information regarding initial federal allocation of vaccine to Iowa and concrete knowledge regarding the efficacy of use in certain populations, IDPH will work with Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA) to reach vulnerable populations first, allowing for additional ramp-up as additional supply becomes available. As such, the beginning of the campaign focuses on supporting vaccination providers, including a distribution plan focusing on those who provide services to vulnerable populations. Iowa expects the vaccine supply to increase over the coming months, allowing vaccination efforts to expand to additional tiers of critical populations and ultimately the general public.

Critical Populations

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the National Institutes of Health, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASSEM) are working to determine populations of focus for COVID-19 vaccination and ensure equity in access to COVID-19 vaccination availability across the United States. IDPH intends to follow federal guidance for vaccine prioritization unless needs in Iowa are substantially different. IDPH has provided LPHA with a numerical list of every licensed nurse, EMS provider, physician, physician assistant, respiratory therapist and pharmacist by county in the state for use in determining logistics once priority populations are known. IDPH will update these lists with additional healthcare provider groups, to include a listing of long-term care facilities in the state of Iowa and associated resident and staff numbers. LPHA and healthcare entities will begin using the provided lists of priority critical populations to create the priority subgroup numbers in each county for the identified priority groups once ACIP, CDC and the Iowa Infectious Disease Advisory Council provide guidance. IDPH will provide technical assistance in creating priority subgroups as needed.

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COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Recruitment and Enrollment

IDPH will utilize the Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) for the allocation, distribution, and documentation of COVID-19 vaccine. Each county local public health agency must be enrolled in IRIS as part of the allocation and distribution process.

All healthcare providers and organizations interested in receiving and administering COVID-19 vaccines are required to complete the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement. IDPH will utilize a REDCap survey to document provider acceptance of the terms to serve as a COVID-19 vaccine provider. The Iowa REDCap COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement will require each vaccination provider to be credentialed/licensed in Iowa.

COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

COVID-19 vaccine products are temperature-sensitive and must be stored and handled correctly to ensure efficacy and maximize shelf life. Proper storage and handling practices are critical to minimize vaccine loss and limit risk of administering COVID-19 vaccine with reduced effectiveness. IDPH will work with each LPHA and each COVID-19 vaccination provider to ensure adherence to vaccine storage and handling procedures.

COVID-19 Vaccination Second-Dose Reminders

IDPH anticipates this vaccine will require multiple doses. As such, LPHA, healthcare providers and pharmacies will use client reminder and recall interventions to remind target population members that vaccinations are due (reminders) or late (recall). IRIS includes the ability for healthcare providers to send reminders (letters, postcards) when patients are due for additional doses of vaccine or recall patients to schedule immunization appointments.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Communication

IDPH recognizes appropriate, effective, and timely communication will be critical to a successful COVID-19 vaccination program and therefore developed a thoughtful communication plan. IDPH has already begun—and will continue—to develop and deliver information through virtual meetings and training with LPHA, which include frequently asked questions and other guidance documents. Public messages will focus on the efficacy and safety of the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, if multiple doses are necessary, clear communication will be key.

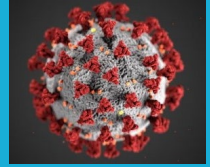
COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

The COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement specifies moderate and severe adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) system. As such, all providers and organizations in Iowa completing a COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Agreement and administering vaccine will be required to report adverse COVID-19 vaccine events to VAERS.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Monitoring

IDPH created detailed tracking documents and processes for monitoring the full spectrum of the COVID-19 vaccine campaign. These documents include internal tracking to monitor specific goals, objectives and expectations, and will allow for weekly review for continuous quality improvement.

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Additional Information

While we await further details and information, IDPH is working proactively to anticipate multiple scenarios with unique considerations. IDPH will update the Iowa vaccination strategy based on additional information provided by CDC and other partners over the implementation period of the campaign. IDPH fully expects to receive near-daily updates from internal, external and federal partners over the next weeks and months. IDPH developed the Iowa COVID-19 vaccine strategy in partnership with stakeholders including:

- Iowa Hospital Association
- Iowa Health Care Association
- Iowa Board of Pharmacy
- Iowa Public Health Association
- Iowa Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Mercy Hospital-Des Moines
- UnityPoint Health System
- Polk County Public Health
- Marion County Public Health
- Iowa Governor's Office
- HHS
- Iowa Department of Human Rights
- Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association
- Iowa Medical Society
- Leading Age Iowa
- Iowa Pharmacy Association
- Iowa Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP)
- Iowa Immunization Coalition
- University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics
- Johnson County Public Health
- Linn County Public Health
- Harrison County Public Health
- Shelby County Public Health
- CDC Project Officer-Immunization
- Iowa Department of Human Services
- Department of Corrections
- Veterans Home