

Wyoming Department of Health - Phase 1 COVID-19 Vaccination Priorities

March 8, 2021

This document contains the Wyoming Department of Health's (WDH) current list of prioritized populations for Phases 1a-1c of the COVID-19 vaccine campaign. During Phase 1, vaccines are in limited supply and are being allocated for specific populations. To develop this list, the WDH used the latest guidance from the CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)^{1,2}, as well as recommendations from the WDH Medical Ethics Committee. This list has been and may be further updated over time due to ACIP recommendations and other state considerations.

COVID-19 has taken a toll on our country and our state. Since March 2020, there have been over 600 COVID-19 related deaths in Wyoming. COVID-19 is likely to be the third-leading cause of death in Wyoming in 2020, second only to heart disease and all forms of cancer.

Vaccines should be provided to individuals in these priority groups and, when possible, should generally follow the priority order as noted in the table below, moving down the priority list once higher-level groups have their needs met. However, due to vaccine logistics and the desire to vaccinate Phase 1 populations as quickly as possible, the WDH has developed priority groups and is advising vaccine providers to vaccinate multiple priority groups where possible, and as vaccine supply allows, rather than strictly proceeding sequentially. Due to limited vaccine availability, providers should not administer the vaccine to individuals not listed on these prioritization schedules at this time.

Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 disease who fall within the Phase 1 groups may consider delaying vaccination for 90 days from the date of their positive test.

Phase 1a

Generally speaking, **Phase 1a** critical populations are:

- Persons who have regular potential for exposure to COVID-19 patients;
- Persons who have regular exposure to people who are potentially positive for COVID-19, or those who are exposed to infectious materials; and
- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Table 1: COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1a Prioritization Schedule

| Priority | Sub-group of Phase 1a Vaccine Distribution |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Hospital staff — direct inpatient care staff and emergency department (ED) staff, including providers working temporarily at the hospital |
| 2 | EMS personnel/fire department personnel who are EMT's |
| 3 | Long-term care facility (LTCF)/assisted living facility (ALF) healthcare providers (HCPs) |
| 4 | Public health nursing (PHN) staff and other HCPs administering vaccines to critical populations in Phase 1a |
| 5 | Tribal public health and HCPs — receiving vaccine through Indian Health Services |
| 6 | PHNs and HCPs who regularly conduct COVID sample collection |
| 7 | Inpatient/residential behavioral health facility HCPs |
| 8 | Urgent care clinics and other medical clinics |
| 9 | Law enforcement — patrol officers and correctional facility officers (city, county, state and federal); coroners |

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6949e1.htm>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/pdfs/mm695152e2-H.pdf>

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| | and deputy coroners |
| 10 | Licensed/credentialed medical and dental direct care staff working in other locations who have regular exposure to potentially positive COVID-19 patients or infectious material |
| 11 | PHN offices and local health departments — nurses and staff |
| 12 | LTCF and ALF residents and other staff not already vaccinated; intermediate care facility staff and residents; residential service settings for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities of 3 or more developmental disability waiver participants (participants and direct support professionals) |
| 13 | Home health healthcare providers, including aging network in-home providers |
| 14 | School nurses |
| 15 | Wyoming Public Health Laboratory and other clinical lab staff conducting COVID-19 testing if not included above; blood bank employees |
| 16 | Pharmacy staff |
| 17 | Other healthcare facility staff - ancillary support staff who have regular exposure to potentially positive COVID-19 patients or infectious material, including supporting staff from out of state |

Phase 1b

Through the following **Phase 1b** designations, WDH aims to prevent death and illness and preserve societal functioning. Generally speaking, Phase 1b critical populations are:

- Persons 65 years of age and older;
- Frontline essential workers who must interact with the public and are unable to consistently physically distance from others;
- Persons with specific diagnosed chronic illness or conditions that put the person at greater risk of severe COVID-19 disease; and
- Persons who are caregivers of those who are medically vulnerable and unable to be vaccinated.

Due to limited vaccine availability, frontline essential workers included in Phase 1b have been limited as much as possible. Those who can physically distance, those who interact with others for limited amounts of time, and those who can take other precautions (such as teleworking) should continue to do so.

The intent for Phase 1b is to allow vaccine providers to concurrently provide vaccinations to those at greatest risk of illness while also providing access to the vaccine for the specified frontline essential workers. County planners are encouraged to consider coordinating with other approved COVID-19 vaccine providers to support Phase 1b vaccination efforts.

Individuals in Phase 1b who are eligible to receive the vaccine may encounter delays. Providers are scheduling as many individuals as possible based on their vaccine supply.

Table 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1b Prioritization Schedule

| Priority | Sub-group of Phase 1b Vaccine Distribution |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Fire, police, 911, correctional staff, search and rescue, and other in-person emergency response personnel not included in Phase 1a (including ancillary support for air ambulance and hospitals and Department of Family Services caseworkers) |
| 2 | Funeral service practitioners and in-person employees necessary for funerals |
| 3 | In-person employees within congregate care or living People who are 70 years of age and older (If necessary, |

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| | settings such as group homes, halfway houses, homeless shelters, child and youth serving facilities | populations may be broken down to vaccinate those who are 80 years of age and older first.) |
| 4 | Healthcare providers, behavioral health providers, and social workers unable to physically distance and unable to provide services through telehealth or virtually and healthcare facility surveyor/compliance evaluator and ombudsmen | People who are 65-69 years of age |
| 5 | K-12 education (teachers and other school district staff) | |
| 6 | Child care service and adult daycare center providers and licensors | |
| 7 | Public transit employees (community transportation buses and airline flight crew members working on passenger planes) | Those with the following conditions: cancer (current diagnosis of cancer), chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (including emphysema, pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, and chronic bronchitis), solid organ transplant, sickle cell disease, down syndrome, and pregnancy (WDH recommends that pregnant women discuss vaccination with their healthcare provider in advance.) |
| 8 | Grocery store employees, commercial meat processing employees, feedlot employees, other food supply chain facility employees and inspectors, and food manufacturing companies with 25 or more employees | People on the Wyoming Medicaid Community Choices Waiver and Developmental Disabilities waivers |
| 9 | US Postal Service employees and delivery service companies (such as FedEx and UPS) likely to have more than 15 minutes of exposure to members of the public; clinical laboratory specimen courier employees | Those with the following conditions: diabetes; heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease and cardiomyopathies); obesity (BMI over 30); immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant, blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, long term high dose corticosteroids, or other immune weakening medicines; cerebrovascular disease (including stroke); severe neurologic conditions (including motor neuron disease, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, quadriplegia or hemiplegia, progressive cerebellar disease, epilepsy, or dementia) |
| 10 | Workforce service center employees; driver's services employees; port of entry employees; parole and probation officers; veterinarians; court system employees; utility and communications employees that must go into private homes; and non-law enforcement security officers that must have in-person close interactions, unable to physically distance and unable to provide services virtually; attorneys, judges, and court personnel necessary for in person criminal hearings or trials; and custodial staff responsible for | Caregivers who are caring for a person who is at high risk of COVID-19 illness as defined in Phase 1b groups in the right column above and cannot receive the vaccine and caregivers of those defined in Phase 1b who are the primary caregiver |

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| cleaning areas known to have been contaminated by people positive for COVID-19 | |
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Phase 1c

Generally speaking, **Phase 1c** critical populations are:

- Persons at increased risk of acquiring or transmitting COVID-19;
- Persons who are 50-64 years of age;
- Persons with specific diagnosed chronic illness or conditions that may put the person at greater risk of severe COVID-19 disease; and
- Essential critical infrastructure workers

Table 3: COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1c Prioritization Schedule

| Priority | Sub-group of Phase 1c Vaccine Distribution | |
|----------|---|--|
| 1 | People who are homeless | |
| 2 | Residents of congregate care or living settings including prisons and jails | |
| 3 | Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce (See Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce for a complete listing of essential workers.) These workers generally include those involved with: critical manufacturing; energy; legal; communications and information technology, financial services; chemical workers; other community or government-based operations and essential functions; water and wastewater; transportation and logistics; law enforcement, public safety, and other first responders; education; food and agriculture; public works and infrastructure support services; hygiene products and services, residential/shelter facilities, housing and real estate, and related services; hazardous materials; healthcare and public health; commercial facilities; defense industrial base. Other workers that have close contact with the public. | People 50-64 years of age and those with the following conditions: moderate-to-severe asthma; hypertension or high blood pressure; liver disease; overweight (BMI 25-30); Thalassemia. |
| 4 | People living in dormitories | |

Verification

Vaccine providers must obtain verification that individuals are part of a priority group through the following means:

- Acknowledgment of age;
- Acknowledgment of having a listed condition and furnishing healthcare provider information; and
- Acknowledgment of Wyoming residency for all groups excluding essential workers.

Phase 2

During Phase 2, WDH expects vaccines will be in greater supply and will likely be available to anyone who would like to receive them. Individuals with limited access to healthcare and vaccines will be a focus for public health agencies in Phase 2.