



## Public Health Advisory

December 11, 2020

### COVID-19 Vaccination Planning for Healthcare Facilities

#### Situation

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) are responsible for coordinating the initial distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine in Clark County. As part of this process, the NSIP has developed a tiered vaccination process for the distribution of the initial deliveries of the COVID-19 vaccine, starting with acute care facilities, healthcare workers, and other critical infrastructure personnel. It is expected that COVID-19 vaccine will be received in mid-December and available for immediate distribution to hospitals. The initial inventory of COVID-19 vaccine will be limited. As the vaccine becomes more available, each tier group will be provided information on how to receive the vaccine.

#### COVID-19 Vaccine

There are multiple vaccines that are seeking Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A vaccine released under an EUA is still an unlicensed product. Information will be given to individuals on how to report side effects on an application/website. As you plan your vaccination activities, consider the following:

- COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials are reactogenic, this means that staff receiving the vaccine may develop a low-grade fever and other symptoms including fatigue. Let vaccine recipients know of these possible effects. It is recommended that employers stagger vaccination schedules to ensure they have available staff to maintain normal business operations.
- As the COVID-19 vaccine will be released under an EUA, it is best practice to offer but not mandate vaccinations to staff.
- Since national surveys vary on the public's willingness to take the COVID vaccine under an EUA, it is important to provide information to staff and to determine their intention to vaccinate.

#### How do health care employers get vaccine for their workers?

As part of vaccine distribution, SNHD, in partnership with the NSIP, is coordinating with non-hospital affiliated healthcare providers to develop a process for the vaccination of our county's healthcare workforce. SNHD is requesting that facilities/clinics contact the NSIP to register for receiving vaccine and then vaccinating their staff. Email [DPBHCOVID19VAX@health.nv.gov](mailto:DPBHCOVID19VAX@health.nv.gov) to register.

For providers who do not have the capacity to store vaccine and/or provide vaccination for their employees, SNHD will be conducting **Point of Dispensing (POD) operations at the Las Vegas Convention Center starting late December/early January**. All staff engaged in clinical operations (including doctors, nurses, medical assistants, administration, front desk, etc.) are eligible to receive the vaccine during Tier 1 deployment. Staff will be required to provide evidence of employment at a healthcare facility such as an ID badge. Check the SNHD website [www.snhd.info](http://www.snhd.info) for current information.

The following types of healthcare facilities/personnel are included:

- Free standing ambulatory surgical/ER centers
- Pharmacists and pharmacy support staff
- Laboratory personnel
- Physical, occupational/speech therapy offices
- Family planning centers
- Outpatient mental health/substance abuse centers
- Diagnostic imaging centers
- Kidney dialysis centers
- Home healthcare services
- Medical offices
- Blood and organ banks
- Dentists
- Optometrists
- Chiropractors
- Mental health providers
- Podiatrists

### **How do healthcare organizations get vaccine for their community?**

SNHD, in partnership with NSIP, is coordinating with large organizations to develop a process for the vaccination of the tier groups. If your organization is interested in providing PODs or mass vaccination clinics to the community, contact Kristy at us at [kzigenis@health.nv.gov](mailto:kzigenis@health.nv.gov).

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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