

January 21 Webinar COVID 19 Vaccine Admin Fireside Chat

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

Q: I heard an ID doc say to not use antihistamines prior to the vaccine. Why not?

A: There is no official recommendation about this, but likely a theoretical potential for a decreased immune response.

Q: Are there any resources with helping independent practices purchase freezer or other capital cost, so they can become vaccine sites?

A: DHB is not aware of any state resources to provider storage units at no cost.

Q: When will the State provide guidance and authorization for a Standing Order for the Covid-19 vaccine?

A: This is in process.

Q: Why don't we have drive-thru in the Raleigh during area?

A: This may be in process--decisions about workflow are left to the vaccine provider.

Q: Is there any way to know which site is providing Pfizer and who is providing Moderna, vaccine - patients are asking.

A: This is not published. The messaging we are encouraging is that they are equivalent.

Q: Can patients positive vaccine acquired immunity can benefit recipients of blood transfusions?

A: Not sure if this has been studied!

Q: What is the forecast for NC receiving more vaccine from the feds during the next few weeks?

A: We are being told by the feds what are allocation is in 3-week increments. We have seen a steady increase in our allocation. We are also seeing new doses going to FQHCs.

Q: What are health departments doing with the "left over/unused" vaccine at the end of the day? I know our county says they are not keeping any short notice lists but other nearby counties are. Is there official guidance?

A: We encourage vaccine providers to keep a list of eligible patients they can call, but this is not a requirement. We have also said that it is better to give a vaccine to a patient who doesn't meet current criteria than to let it go to waste.

Q: Do you know why pharmacies were placed at the end to order the vaccine? We are very well positioned to provide vaccines to the community. Some of our doctor's offices in the community don't even plan to order it due to all the requirements.

A: We developed a prioritization plan to onboard providers based on their ability to reach patients over 65 and those in HMP populations. Pharmacies are not last on the list! We have been adding new pharmacies for allocation every week.

Q: What are the plans to mass vaccinate HMPs who may not have a medical home?

A: We are allocating vaccine to providers who have committed to reach HMP through events that collaborate with community partners.

Q: Can you speak to the opportunity for Super Vaccination sites as additional vaccines obtain EUA? Partnerships for marginalized populations with community churches and organizations?

A: This is absolutely a priority and we have a form that we are using to recruit community partners.
<https://nc.readyop.com/fs/4d8U/edbe>

Q: Health Departments have only nurses on site, but it was said in a question there needs to a provider?

A: Depending on your insurance contracts, you may need to have a provider on site to bill. For compliance with state vaccine agreement, a provider must be available, either onsite or via telephone.

Q: Can you identify avenues that are being taken to get those in the African American, Latino, and elderly community vaccinated, especially when hesitancy, internet and transportation are issues?

A: A lot of effort in this area. Prioritizing vaccine allocation to providers who serve these communities, working with community partners, PR campaigns. Still more work to do. Dedicating 10% of vaccines each week specifically for increasing vaccination in racial and ethnic minority populations.

Q: Will FQHC's and other organizations take non-medical Health care workers like administrative to volunteer especially for data entry?

A: The state has a way for folks to be listed as volunteers, both medical and non-medical.
<https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/how-to-help/Volunteer-as-Health-Care-Worker.pdf>

Q: Can you provide information about whether agencies can sign up so their staff can get vaccinated at the major hospitals?

A: There is guidance coming out soon for employers, but for those in Category 1, they should reach out to their local health department or a hospital partner.

Q: As a general pediatric practice, we have few patients who qualify for vaccine, but would we be able to vaccinate parents or extended household family members or better to just volunteer at a different location?

A: Yes, absolutely. You can volunteer with a community organization or apply to receive vaccine and host a special event.