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Nevada's COVID-19 Vaccine Planning & Distribution

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Nevada State Immunization Program



2/18/2021

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.

COVID-19 Vaccine Playbook



**Nevada Department of
Health and
Human Services**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Nevada's Playbook for Statewide Operations V3

NEVADA STATE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM; DIVISION OF PUBLIC &
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

[https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NEVADA-
COVID-19-VACCINE-PLAYBOOK-V3-1.pdf](https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NEVADA-
COVID-19-VACCINE-PLAYBOOK-V3-1.pdf)





Goal of Vaccine Response

- Make sure the COVID-19 vaccines released in Nevada are safe and effective
- Reduce the spread of COVID-19 as well as deaths and severe disease
- Help keep society and the economy functioning safely, including making sure hospitals and healthcare workers can stay safe and keep working
- **Make sure there is equity in vaccine distribution across Nevada**

Phased Vaccination Strategy

- Started mid-December with frontline health care workers, emergency services (paramedics/firefighters), remaining health care workers/staff, and law enforcement and remaining public safety workforce
- Nevadans living in long-term care, assisted living, and related facilities started being reached the week after the first group and continue to be scheduled by CVS or Walgreens
- Following federal recommendations, Nevada's Playbook prioritizes vaccination of older Nevadans and frontline essential workers at the same time
- Following those groups, we will move to reaching other essential workers, Nevadans who have underlying health conditions which put them at high risk of severe disease from COVID-19, and Nevadans experiencing homelessness
- When supply can outpace demand, we can reach all Nevadans who want the vaccine (Healthy Adults 16-64 years)
- **Pregnant and breastfeeding women should talk to their health care provider about the risks and benefits for them**
- **Children under 16 years not included in initial clinical trials**



Ethical considerations for distributing limited vaccine supply

Throughout early Spring, it is necessary to prioritize vaccine eligibility among and within the identified essential workforce categories.

Nevada State Immunization Program guidance is to prioritize employees **whose job cannot be done remotely and who cannot socially distance while conducting their job duties.**

Until vaccine supply increases, position types that can work remotely are recommended to continue to do so.



Equity is a crosscutting consideration

- **Johns Hopkins:** “Promoting equity and social justice requires addressing higher rates of COVID-19 related severe illness and mortality among systematically disadvantaged or marginalized groups.
- **National Academies:** “The committee recommends that vaccine access should be prioritized for geographic areas identified as vulnerable through CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index”





Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's Ethics/Equity Framework

Purpose: Assist ACIP in the identification of early recipients for allocation of COVID-19 vaccine in the setting of a constrained supply

- Goals

- Minimize death and serious disease
- Preserve functioning of society
- Reduce disproportionate burden on those with existing disparities
- Increase equity of opportunity to enjoy health and well-being

- Ethical Principles

- Maximize benefits and minimize harms
- Equity
- Justice
- Fairness
- Transparency



Example

Application of ethical principles to potential early COVID-19 vaccine recipient groups

← Evidence Based →

Group	Maximize benefits	Equity	Justice	Fairness
Healthcare personnel (~20M)	Essential for response May decrease transmission to patients, coworkers, community ¹ Decrease COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in some HCP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~40% have high risk condition or ≥65 years of age² May be in low redundancy jobs where absenteeism may compromise/stop care	Overrepresentation of some racial or ethnic minority groups and lower income earners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 higher among Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black HCP³ Larger proportion of staff at LTCF female and non-Hispanic Black persons; disproportionately lower-wage workers⁴ 	HCP recommended for early phase vaccination have an equal opportunity to access vaccine Definition of HCP includes “paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings”	Can help reduce disparities in health outcomes Acknowledges increased risk of COVID-19 exposure due to essential nature of work
Transparency Engagement with partners and key stakeholders; Discussion at public meetings				

¹Slayton. Modeling allocation strategies for the initial COVID-19 Vaccine Supply. ACIP meeting Aug 26, 2020

²Gibson. J Gen Int Med 2020 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7314425/?report=reader>

³Self et al MMWR: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6935e2.htm?s_cid=mm6935e2_w

⁴Oliver. Epidemiology of COVID-19 in essential workers, including healthcare personnel. ACIP meeting July 29, 2020

Ensuring Equity in Distribution

- Provide funding to Immunize Nevada and the Nevada Minority Health Equity Coalition to collaborate on the creation and development of a Vaccine Equity Task Force comprised of diverse and interdisciplinary members.
- Funding each Health District, Division of Public and Behavioral Health Community Health Services, and local counties – this funding includes stipulations to ensure and provide equity in vaccine distribution and access.
- Share clear and accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines and the distribution plan for equitable access, including reminder protocols for 2nd doses.
- The information above is available in other languages including but not limited to American Sign Language and Spanish.
- Provide education about the potential risks and benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine to enable individuals to make an informed personal choice.
- Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) will work with public and private vaccinators to make sure vaccine sites are accessible to people with disabilities who do not drive or are in settings that do not provide transportation, including walk-in clinics, mobile clinics, and/or working with transportation providers to secure no- or low-cost rides to vaccination sites.
- NSIP and vaccinating partners are collaborating with new and old partners (including chronic disease awareness raising organizations and community-level trusted institutions, including faith-based organizations) in planning for temporary/offsite/mobile vaccination events.
- More goals and activities for ensuring equity throughout Nevada's vaccine response are outlined in the Playbook V3.



Vaccine Dashboard

- Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Analytics announced additional metrics to be included on the COVID-19 vaccine dashboard.
- The enhancements published 2/17/21 are provided to show data on trends and demographics and will mirror other categories of data included on the Dashboard.
- The dashboard can be found on the NVHealthResponse.nv.gov home page as a new "Vaccinations" tab on the existing COVID-19 dashboard.

Vaccination Details

- NSIP is supporting vaccination planning in every county and working with each Emergency Manager and County Health District (Carson/Washoe/Clark)
 - <https://www.immunizenevada.org/county-specific-covid-19-vaccine-plan>
- Online Resources
 - <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>
- Statewide Call Center
 - 1-800-401-0946
 - Can make appointments in various systems on a person's behalf

Key takeaways

- There is an equitable and science-based plan to distribute COVID-19 vaccine to Nevadans following ACIP recommendations.
- There is an existing vaccine distribution infrastructure in the state of Nevada – NSIP did this every day for childhood and adult vaccines before COVID hit.
- COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial processes will only allow for a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to be released for use in the U.S.
- Using quality data thoughtfully continues to be essential to ensuring an equitable COVID vaccine response.



Questions?





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