



Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

January 12, 2021

TO: ALL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY EXECUTIVES, COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS,
COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS AND COUNTY CLERKS

FROM: CHERYL SUBLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RACHEL MASSOUD, POLICY ANALYST

RE: JANUARY 12, 2021 COVID-19 UPDATES

Key Resources

1. [CCAO CARES Act Funds Resources Webpage](#)
2. [OBM Ideas on How to Use Coronavirus Relief Funding](#)
3. [OBM CARES Act Funds Guidance 11.20.2020](#)
4. [CCAO Guidance on Using CARES Act Funds](#)
5. [Treasury Guidance CARES Act Funds 9.2.2020](#)
6. [Treasury CARES Act Funds FAQs 10.19.2020](#)
7. [CAB: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Public Employees](#)

[CCAO COVID-19 Resources Page](#)

Gov. DeWine Press Conference: Phase 1B Vaccine Rollout Update

In today's press conference, Gov. DeWine discussed Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Program. The federal government announced today a change in vaccine policy. They will no longer hold back vaccines for second doses. This will result in more vaccines being sent to Ohio. Gov. DeWine indicated the state has not received details about how this switch will be made, but said it indicates the government's confidence in the production lines coming out of the companies.

During a briefing to local government associations, the administration provided an overview slide deck regarding Phase 1B rollout. You can view the slides [here](#). Note: Phase 1A will not be completed before Phase 1B starts. A summary of the governor's remarks today about Phase 1B rollout and Ohio's vaccination program progress is below.

Next week, Ohio will begin vaccinating Ohioans 80 and older. This group consists of roughly 420,000 people. As of now, Ohio expects to receive about 100,000 doses of the vaccine each week. On Tuesday afternoons, Ohio is informed of how many vaccine doses it will receive from the federal government. The following Sunday, Ohio finds out which days the vaccine doses will ship and how much will be shipped to each provider. Shipments typically arrive in Ohio on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.



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Currently, Ohio has over 1,900 providers registered to administer the vaccine. That number will continue to grow. **Due to the number of doses Ohio expects to receive each week, ODH is choosing 800 providers to start vaccinating the 80+ population next week.** As vaccine supply increases, the number of authorized providers will increase. Each provider is responsible for setting up their procedure for vaccinating within the guidelines given by ODH. Some will require appointments, some will have walk up clinics or drive thru clinics. Each provider will control their own appointments and scheduling. Providers must have a contingency plan to prevent any spoilage of vaccine doses. Yesterday, ODH held a webinar with registered providers to go over requirements and process. Providers that receive the vaccine on Monday the 18th will be expected to start distributing on Tuesday the 19th. Those that receive it on Tuesday the 19th will be expected to start vaccinating on Wednesday the 20th, and so on.

Once the 800 providers are notified that they have been chosen to provide the vaccine next week, **ODH is asking local health departments to partner with the local EMA and providers in the counties to hold press conference or send news releases announcing the locations and contact information where vaccines will be available.** This should occur on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Because of the scarcity of the vaccine, it will take time to vaccinate all Ohioans 80 and older and the rest of Phase 1B. There are 2.2 million Ohioans in Phase 1B. ODH and its partners are working to get vaccines out as quickly and efficiently as they can.

On Thursday, ODH will post information on coronavirus.ohio.gov about which providers are giving the vaccine. Ohioans will be able to search providers by zip code and by county. The website will include the contact information for each provider and links where Ohioans can learn more about each provider's procedure for vaccination (how to sign up, etc.). The state site will **not** update in real time to show how many vaccines are available at each provider. Only the provider will be able to answer that question.

As of right now, Ohio plans to add an additional 5 years of age eligibility each week for the vaccine. **When a new age range opens, that does not mean vaccinations will be complete for the previous age group.**

January 25th – Ohioans 75 and older eligible

February 1st – Ohioans 70 and older eligible

February 8th – Ohioans 65 and older eligible

Area Agencies on Aging are available to help Ohioans 65 and older navigate the vaccination process, secure transportation, and answer other questions. Visit www.aging.ohio.gov or call 1-866-243-5678 for more information.

The administration's number one goal with the vaccination program is to save lives. Because the data shows 87% of Ohio's deaths have been of adults 65 and older, Ohio is focusing on vaccinating this population. Gov. DeWine announced that 85% of Ohio's nursing homes have been visited for vaccinations. Both of Ohio's veterans' homes have been visited, with 92% of the residents vaccinated in each. 60% of the staff chose to be vaccinated at the Sandusky home, while 42% of the staff chose to be vaccinated at the Georgetown home.

Hospitals have been vaccinating medical personnel. ODH informed hospitals that they must complete this process by midnight on Sunday so they can move to vaccinating the older Ohio population next week.

The [COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) is live. For more information about Ohio's COVID-19 vaccination program, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

There were 7,981 new COVID-19 cases reported today. Additionally, there were 486 additional hospitalizations and 49 additional ICU admissions in the past 24 hours. To view the latest COVID-19 data, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A video of the governor's January 12th press conference can be found [here](#). Press conferences can be viewed on www.ohiochannel.org.

COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit

The Ohio Department of Health released a COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit with talking points, language tips, and website, newsletter, and social media sample materials. You can view the kit [here](#).

Upcoming CCAO Webinar – Federal Policy Developments and their Impacts on Public Employers in 2021 – January 15

CCAO will host a webinar titled “Federal Policy Developments and their Impacts on Public Employers in 2021” on **Friday, January 15, 2021 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.** This webinar will review employment and HR policy challenges that arise from the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the passage of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Counties will be faced with decisions about whether to require certain employees to receive a vaccine, and how to manage COVID-related personnel issues with the expiration of paid employment leave and temporary FMLA provisions from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). The webinar will also review the impact of federal law changes on unemployment compensation policy.

PRESENTER: Marc A. Fishel, Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff, LLP

Click [here](#) to register for this timely educational opportunity. If you are unable to register to the link above, please email Nedra Benson, nbenson@ccao.org, CCAO administrative professional, and provide her with your email address.

Ohio to Expedite Payment to Hundreds of Thousands of Ohioans; Federal unemployment benefits are extended until March 13

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services sent a news release yesterday with updates on federal unemployment benefits. To read the release, click [here](#).

Coalition Communication Fact Sheets

The administration created “coalitions communications” fact sheets to aid different groups in communicating with their constituencies about the coronavirus. The documents include helpful talking points, sample social media posts, resources, updated COVID-19 data and more.

Each fact sheet has a designated communications point of contact who can provide support in drafting newsletters, op-eds, etc. The administration will update these documents each week.

You can find the documents at the following links: [Local Government](#), [Law Enforcement](#), [Business](#), [Agriculture](#), [Manufacturing](#), [K-12 Education](#), [Higher Education](#), [Tourism & Arts](#), [Healthcare](#), [Faith Based Organizations](#) and [Philanthropy](#).

Other Resources

[ODJFS Director Henderson Weekly Call Notes 1.11.2021](#)

[Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)

[Public Health Advisory System Map and Resources](#)

[Ohio COVID-19 Travel Advisory Information](#)

[Current Information Regarding Reopening](#)

[Editable #InThisTogetherOhio Logo](#)

[NACo COVID-19 webpage](#)

Visit <https://ccao.org/resources/coronavirus-updates/> for updates, FAQs and previous memos. Current information from the Ohio Department of Health can be found at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. If you want to help Ohio's response to this pandemic, you can contact the state at together@governor.ohio.gov. If you have questions regarding this memo or best practice suggestions relating to COVID-19, please contact Rachel Massoud, policy analyst, at rmassoud@ccao.org.