ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
Allen County Combined Health District

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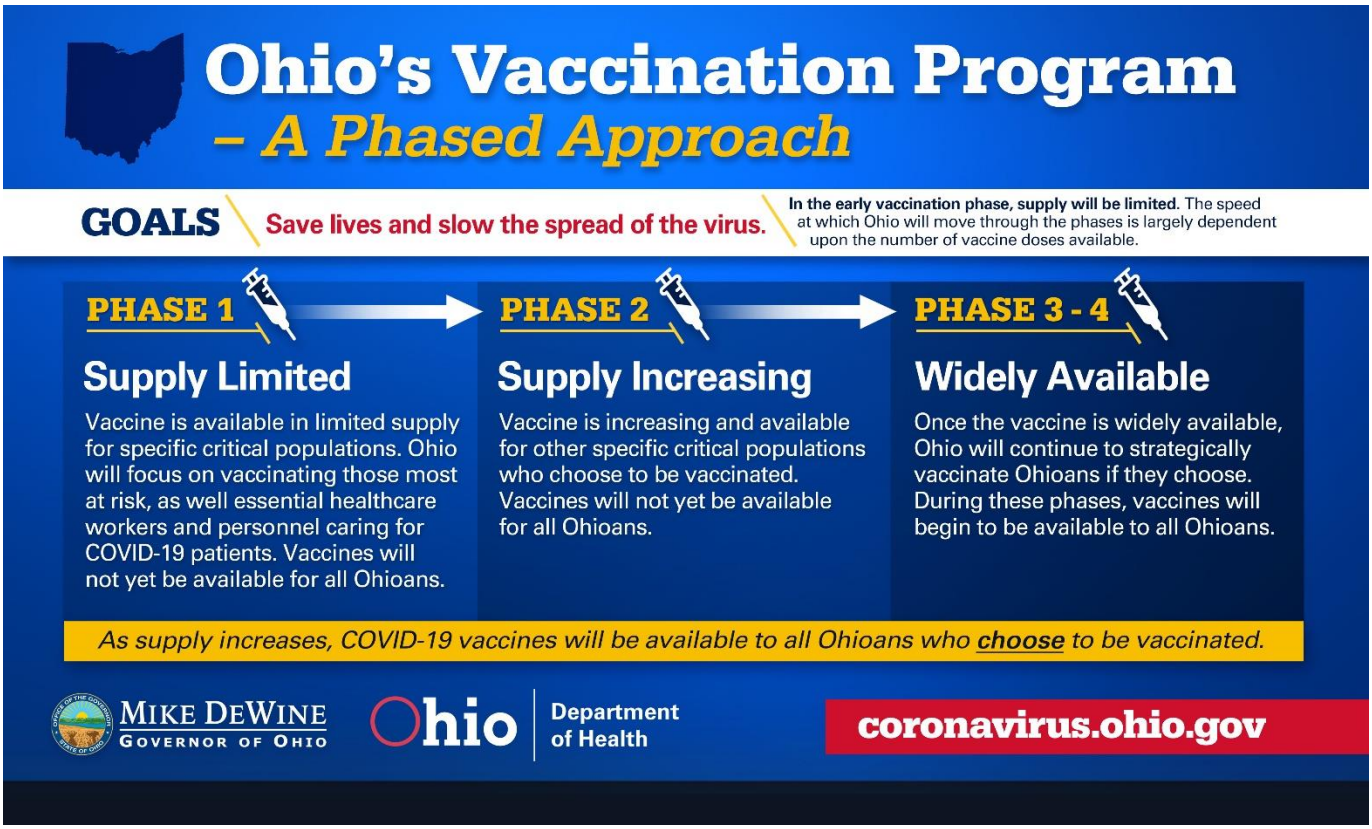
Public Health Update: COVID-19 Vaccine Vol. 1

Ohio is prepared to distribute safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines statewide to those who choose to be vaccinated. As COVID-19 vaccines were granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the state has begun to strategically and thoughtfully distribute the vaccines to Ohioans at the greatest risk in conjunction with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM).

Ohio's goals are clear:

- To save lives
- Slow the spread of the virus

In the early vaccination phase, focus is on the most at risk, as well as distributing the vaccines to essential healthcare workers and those with the greatest risk for exposure to and/or transmission of COVID-19.



Vaccine Information

- **Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19**
  While many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness or they may even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you are not at increased risk of severe complications. If you get sick, you also may spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you while you are sick. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness.

- **COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19**
  None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. There are several different types of vaccines in development. However, the goal for each of them is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.

- **Systems are in place to ensure that vaccines are as safe as possible**
  Clinical trials of the vaccines were conducted according to rigorous standards set forth by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control. Additionally, several processes have been put in place to add an additional layer of safety monitoring. V-Safe is an after-vaccination health checker for anyone who receives a vaccine, using text messaging and web surveys to check in with vaccine recipients and to also provide second dose reminders. The Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 page also has a vaccine dashboard where individuals can track the number of vaccines that have been given in Ohio, and any reports of adverse reactions.

Vaccine Status - Allen County

With the supply of vaccine so limited, Allen County Public Health is coordinating vaccinations with very specific target populations, as identified by state and federal partners. It is much too soon to speculate when the next phases for the vaccine will start. We are unable to create 'waiting lists' at this time. Please watch for updates from Allen County Public Health and announcements in the local media as the different phases for vaccination roll out. In the meantime, these are actions you can take:

- Learn more about the vaccine from reputable sources
  Allen County Public Health Ohio Department of Health Centers for Disease Control

- Reduce your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19

Lowest Risk		Highest Risk
• Outdoor activities • Space for people to spread out, 6 feet or more apart from each other • High use of face coverings • Fewer people • Limited time in close contact to others • Handwashing facilities and/or sanitizing products readily available • Frequently touched surfaces cleaned and disinfected often • Individually wrapped or served food		• Indoor activities in confined spaces • Crowded conditions, people close together • No or limited use of face coverings • More people • People spending long periods of time near each other • Limited handwashing/sanitizing products • Limited cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces • Equipment/supplies used by multiple people • Buffet/self-serve food