



Oregon's Phase 1a Vaccine Sequencing Plan: Frequently Asked Questions

Revised January 22, 2021

Resources

- Oregon's Phase 1a Vaccine Sequencing Plan: sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le3527.pdf
- Oregon's COVID-19 Vaccination Trends dashboard: bit.ly/ORCovidVaccinationTrends
- OHA COVID-19 vaccine website: covidvaccine.oregon.gov
Spanish: vacunacovid.oregon.gov

General

Q1: Where can I find more information about the COVID-19 vaccines?

A1: Information regarding safety, sequencing, provider enrollment for administering vaccines and more can be found on the OHA COVID-19 vaccine website at <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>.

Q2: Will children be vaccinated against COVID-19?

A2: At this point, no. The current Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) do not allow for children under 16 (Pfizer) or under 18 (Moderna) to be vaccinated. In the future, COVID-19 vaccines may be approved for use among younger children.

Q3: How can I find out when and where I can get vaccinated?

A3: The Oregon Health Authority is working with Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs), hospitals and other community partners on developing operational plans to ensure that all individuals included in Phase 1a and in future phases know where and when they can get vaccinated. As these plans are finalized, they will be communicated to the public. Initial vaccine administration is occurring with specific groups as outlined by the [Phase 1a Vaccine Sequencing Plan](#) and is being carried out by hospitals, emergency medical service (EMS) agencies, LPHAs, skilled nursing facilities and other partners serving Group 1 populations. If further

guidance is needed, please contact the OHA Vaccine Planning unit by emailing COVID19.Vaccine@dhsosha.state.or.us

Q4: Will I be able to get vaccinated near my community?

A4: Yes. Plans are being developed to ensure that vaccine administration is available throughout the state.

Q5: Is the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) planning on making COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory?

A5: There are no plans for OHA to require the COVID-19 vaccination, but OHA strongly recommends vaccination for the safety and health of the entire community.

Q6: Can I require my employee to sign a liability waiver before they get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A6: Organizations should contact their legal counsel if they have questions about liability and COVID-19 vaccine administration. There is a federal law called the PREP Act which provides immunity for claims of loss related to covered countermeasures, like vaccines. For additional information, please visit <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/prepact/Pages/default.aspx>.

Q7: If I want to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider, how do I do that?

A7: Phased enrollment of health care providers who wish to administer COVID-19 vaccine has begun for the following provider types: hospitals, LPHAs and Federally-recognized Tribes that are not enrolled with the federal government to receive COVID-19 vaccine. The [COVID-19 Healthcare Partner Resources page](#) has information about enrolling with the Immunization Program. Click on the “Vaccine Planning” box under the orange line for more details.

Q8: Do providers administering vaccines need to verify that an individual falls within an eligible group within current Phase 1 or future phases before they can get vaccinated?

A8: Providers should at the very least have an individual self-attest that they fall within Phase 1a, or if vaccinations are happening in other phases, that they are in that phase. The Oregon Health Authority is not requiring verification, has not established standards for verification, and has no plans to request verification documentation from vaccinating providers. Vaccine providers may include self-attestation questions in their vaccine administration protocols at their discretion.

Phase 1a sequencing groups

Q1: Where do I get information about how Oregon is prioritizing who gets COVID-19 vaccines in Phase 1a in Oregon?

A1: Oregon’s Phase 1a Vaccine Sequencing Plan has details on the groups who are eligible for vaccinations in Phase 1a. For more information, visit <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/>.

Q2: What if I'm not included in Phase 1a of the vaccination plan?

A2: Oregon has established a COVID-19 [Vaccine Advisory Committee](#) (VAC) with community representatives that will work with the Oregon Health Authority on who should be prioritized for future phases of vaccine distribution. Stay tuned for additional information.

Q3: What if I think I'm in Phase 1a but not sure?

A3: Please reach out to your employer for guidance about whether you are in Phase 1a or contact the Oregon Health Authority at COVID19.Vaccine@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Q4: Is a hospital required to vaccinate non-hospital employees?

A4: Hospitals are not required to vaccinate non-hospital employees, such as credentialed health care professionals or EMS personnel. However, hospitals may choose to do so and we strongly encourage such collaborations in coordination with LPHAs.

Q5: Will the Local Public Health Authorities (LPHA) be involved in facilitating access to vaccines for Phase 1a?

A5: Yes, LPHAs will play a vital role in ensuring that individuals within Phase 1a are vaccinated according to Oregon's sequencing plan and their own local plans. LPHAs will also be receiving their own allocations of vaccine.

Q6: Are mental health residential, substance use disorders residential, detox and children's residential included in the behavioral health residential programs of Phase 1a?

A6: Yes, these facilities and programs are included in Phase 1a, Group 2. This includes all residents who meet the age eligibility for vaccines per the FDA, plus all paid and unpaid health care personnel or direct care personnel serving in these settings.

Q7: Are dentists included in Group 1 of Phase 1a?

A7: Dentists working in hospitals or urgent care settings are included in Group 1 of Phase 1a, but dentists working in a dental office are not, even if they are performing urgent procedures. Dentists in dental offices are included in Group 4 of Phase 1a.

Q8: Are staff who work in county juvenile detention centers included in Phase 1a?

A8: Yes, personnel serving in county juvenile detention centers are included in Phase 1a, Group 2.

Q9: Are staff working in Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) child welfare group homes in Phase 1a?

A9: Yes, personnel working in ODHS child welfare group homes are included in Phase 1a, Group 2 as they would be considered a type of congregate care setting.

Q10: Are foster parents caring for children in state custody in their own homes included in Phase 1a?

A10: It depends. As a general matter, non-congregate settings such as individual foster homes are not included in Phase 1a. However, foster parents caring for a medically fragile child are included in Phase 1a, Group 3.

Q11: Are patients at psychiatric hospitals, such as the Oregon State Hospital and Cedar Hills Hospital, included in Phase 1a? If so, in what group?

A11: Yes, patients at psychiatric hospitals are included in Phase 1a. Patients who reside at a secure psychiatric hospital should be treated the same as residents in skilled nursing and memory care facilities as their risk factors and length of stay are similar, and therefore, are in Phase 1a, Group 1.

Q12: Are workers in homeless shelters eligible to get COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a?

A12: No, unless they are a health care provider providing care in the shelter, workers in homeless shelters do not fall within any of the groups in Phase 1a.

Q13: I work for a community-based organization (CBO) that provides wraparound support to people who have tested positive for or been exposed to COVID-19. Am I eligible for vaccine in Phase 1a?

A13: If you have in-person interactions with COVID 19 cases or exposed persons, you qualify as health care personnel serving in “other public health settings” and are eligible for a vaccine in Phase 1a. Someone working for a CBO that was only communicating with people by email or over the phone would not.

Q14: Are wildland firefighters eligible for vaccine in Phase 1a as first responders?

A14: No. A wildland fire fighter is not considered a first responder under Phase 1a so does not qualify for the COVID-19 vaccine at this time.

Q15: Are ski-patrollers eligible for COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a as first responders?

A15: Yes. Ski-patrollers have medical training and are expected to respond to accidents at ski resorts and therefore they are considered first responders under Phase 1a.

Q16: Are Judges, district attorneys, or criminal defense attorneys eligible for vaccination in Phase 1a because they come into contact with individuals in custody?

A16: No. Only individuals employed by, contracting with or volunteering for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), or the county corrections systems AND who are serving in DOC or OYA facilities, or serving or in the county jail system are eligible under Phase 1a for vaccinations. See Oregon’s Phase 1a Sequencing Plan, Group 2. Judges, district attorneys and criminal defense attorneys do not “serve in” these settings, even though they may come into contact with individuals in custody.

Q17: What does “medically fragile” mean?

A17: It can be construed broadly as a chronic physical condition which results in a prolonged dependency on medical care and caregiving for which daily skilled nursing or other care is required.

Q18: Who is considered a parent/caregiver?

A18: Any family member or non-family member providing specific care for a medically fragile child or adult at home.

Phase 1b

Q1: Who are the critical workers included in Phase 1b?

A1: The Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) will be working with the Oregon Health Authority to co-create a sequencing plan for who should be included in Phase 1b based on identified equitable principles. For more information about the VAC, including its members, go to <https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov> and stay tuned for additional information about Phase 1b.

Questions?

If you have questions related to COVID-19 vaccines, please send your questions to one of the following so OHA can assist.

COVID-19 vaccine general: COVID19.Vaccine@dhsoha.state.or.us

COVID-19 vaccine provider enrollment: Vaccine.ProviderEnroll@dhsoha.state.or.us

COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee: Covid.vaccineadvisory@dhsoha.state.or.us

Resources

OHA COVID-19 vaccine website: <http://healthoregon.org/covidvaccine>

OHA COVID-19 vaccine website (Spanish): <http://healthoregon.org/vacunacovid>

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsoha.state.or.us.