

COVID-19 Update: Vaccination Phase 1C & Phase 2

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today provided the following updates on Ohio's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

VACCINE AVAILABILITY

Governor DeWine announced today that Ohio is expected to receive more than 448,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week. Of that total, more than 96,000 doses of the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be delivered to around 200 new independent pharmacy providers as well as chain pharmacies, hospitals, and health departments.

Ohio now offers more than 1,200 provider locations. Ohioans can find vaccine provider locations at vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov. Those who do not have access to the internet or are having trouble managing the online scheduling systems should call their local health department, the 211 helpline center, or the Area Agencies on Aging at 1-866-243-5678.

PHASE 1C AND PHASE 2 VACCINATION ELIGIBILITY

In response to this significant increase in the amount of vaccine coming into Ohio, Governor DeWine today outlined the individuals who are included in Phase 1C and Phase 2 of Ohio's vaccination plan which will go into effect on March 4.

Phase 1C includes approximately 246,000 eligible Ohioans with certain occupations and with certain medical conditions not addressed in previous phases.

Phase 1C: Medical Groups

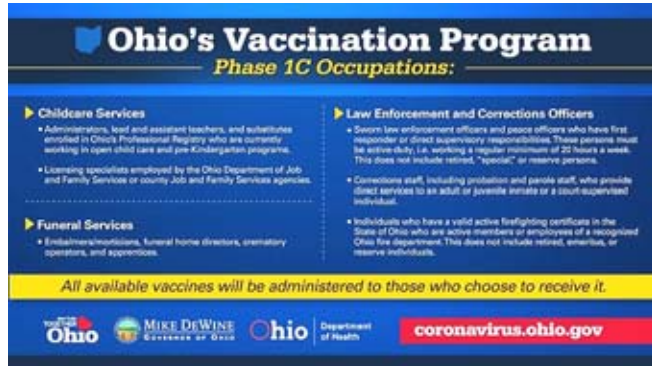
- Type 1 diabetes
- Pregnant women
- Bone marrow transplant recipients
- ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

Phase 1C: Occupations

Childcare Services – Approximately 40,400 Ohioans:

Administrators, lead and assistant teachers, and substitutes who are enrolled in Ohio's Profes-

sional Registry who are currently working in open childcare and pre-kindergarten programs. Licensing specialists employed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services or county job and family services agencies.



This phase does not include parent volunteers, board members, or owners/administrators that do not provide in-classroom supports.

Funeral Services - Approximately 3,600 Ohioans:

Embalmers/morticians, funeral home directors, crematory operators, and apprentices.

Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers - Approximately 76,000 Ohioans:

Phase 1C Occupations

Examples of law enforcement occupations included in Phase 1C are police officers; sheriff's deputies; Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers; other state or federal enforcement officers such as Ohio Department of Natural Resource enforcement staff, pharmacy board investigators, BCI agents, state fire marshal investigators, federal transportation security officers, and other federal law enforcement officers who do not have access to vaccination from federal sources.

Phase 2

Because the risk of more severe reactions and outcomes of COVID-19 increase with age, Phase 2 will open vaccinations based on age, beginning with Ohioans ages 60 and older. This group includes ap-

proximately 695,000 eligible Ohioans.

FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE & BIASED FUND ALLOCATION

Lt. Governor Jon Husted outlined provisions in the federal stimulus package recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that if signed into law would disproportionately and negatively impact Ohio and its recovery.

This \$1.9 trillion COVID Relief Bill provides significant additional relief funding for state and local governments, however, the as-passed version adopted by Congress distributes the \$350 billion in coronavirus relief funding to state and local governments using a formula that incorporates state unemployment rates as of the fourth quarter of 2020, instead of using a solely population-based formula.

As a result, this benefits states with higher unemployment rates during that period.

Under the current proposal, because Ohio's December 2020 unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, the state will miss out on over \$800 million compared to if a more equitable population-based formula was used, as was used for the CARES Act.

Over the weekend, governors across the country, including Governor DeWine, released a joint statement opposing the new standard in the federal stimulus bill for how federal funds would be allocated to states:

The statement reiterates that "the new stimulus proposal allocates aid based on a state's unemployed population rather than its actual population, which punishes states that took a measured approach to the pandemic and entered the crisis with healthy state budgets and strong economies."

There are 33 states expected to lose funding under

this proposal.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Kim Henderson, director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, will be relocating to North Carolina in the spring. She will remain in the director role until Monday, March 8. Matt Damschroder, current director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS), will move into an interim director role at that time. Henderson will become a senior advisor to him until her last day on April 30th.

A nationwide search will be launched for Director Henderson's permanent replacement.

Until that search concludes, Assistant DAS Director Matt Whatley will work as interim director at DAS.

CURRENT CASE DATA

In total, there are 968,874 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 reported in Ohio and 17,346 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths. A total of

50,382 people have been hospitalized throughout the pandemic, including 7,148 admissions to intensive care units. In-depth data can be accessed by visiting coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Video of today's full update, including versions with foreign language translation, can be viewed on the Ohio Channel's YouTube page.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.



Ohio's Hospital Capacity Data in Ten Charts Interactive: Explore Newly Released Hospital Data

By Lucia Walinchus and Boniface Womber

This article provided by Eye on Ohio, the nonprofit, non-partisan Ohio Center for Journalism. Please join our free mailing list as this helps us provide more public service reporting.

Ohio's COVID-19 cases are surging for the third time, and social media channels have exploded with anecdotes describing how much space there is available at area hospitals. Some "undercover" videos show patients roaming empty wards. Other posts tell tearful stories by doctors and nurses exhausted from overwhelming demand.

After a seven month legal battle, the Ohio Court of Claims recently ordered the Ohio Department of Health to release to Eye on Ohio local information on the number of beds, ventilators, and other equipment available at local hospitals.

The data paints a complicated, constantly changing picture of Ohio's efforts to "flatten the curve." Some hospitals seem to be doing fine, while other hospitals seem to be constantly scrambling for open beds. The result is heavily dependent on where

patients live, though overall the number of available staffed beds is shrinking.

"We are already at a very high level. We are already seeing our hospitals fill up," said Governor Mike DeWine at a press conference on Tuesday.

Some hospitals have seen their available resources shrink, while others have remained relatively stable. For example, despite having roughly the same population as Cleveland or Cincinnati, Columbus has seen far fewer beds available for hospitalized patients.

And rural areas with a relatively stable number of beds available have, on average, far fewer beds overall.

Dr. Matthew Colflesh at Trinity Health System in Steubenville, said that in the first two waves, his rural hospital didn't see that many patients, just nine

in the first wave and five in the second.

"My theme now is that things are different. We have reached a point in the past two weeks where the max number of hospitalizations in this hospital is 34," he said.

One bright spot has been that personal protective equipment has, so far, remained relatively stable, though half of Ohio's known coronavirus cases have been reported in just the past five weeks. Though not all hospitals report their equipment numbers.

On March 19, Ohio postponed all elective surgeries, causing a large spike in hospital beds available. On June 2, Ohio resumed other procedures. In early November, hospital officials announced they would start transferring patients to other systems to help even out patient loads.

The Ohio Department of Health released records of staffed hospital capacity to Eye on Ohio from March 16 through Nov. 20. Eye on Ohio has requested the most recent data, from after that date.

"As is true in areas across the state, our biggest capacity constraint is not in physical space, but in staffing availability, both of which we monitor daily," said Lisa Henderson, Vice President of Health Initiatives at the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association. "Our hospital leaders continue to work together to plan for what comes next, on behalf of our regional hospital community to ensure we can continue to care for the people in our region, whether that care is needed for COVID-19 or any other medical condition."

In terms of hospital capacity, our hospitals are extremely busy," said Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, Chief Medical Officer of the Ohio Department of Health. "Any time you have a SINGLE diagnosis that is occupying 20, 30 percent of the beds in your hospital, you're extremely busy. Because that's unheard of."

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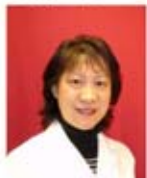
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