

**IN THIS ISSUE: COVID-19 VACCINATION PLANNING**

**COVID-19 Vaccination Planning  
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**THIS EPI NEWS REQUIRES RESPONSE.  
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM IN  
PROVIDED LINK.**

<https://forms.washoecounty.us/f/COVIDVaccinations>

**Introduction**

The Washoe County Health District (WCHD) and the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) are responsible for coordinating the initial distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. As part of this process the NSIP has developed a tiered vaccination process for the distribution of the initial deliveries of the COVID-19 vaccine, starting with acute care facilities, health care workers, and other critical infrastructure personnel. It is expected that COVID-19 vaccine will be received in mid-December and available for immediate distribution.

The initial inventory of COVID-19 vaccine will be limited. As the vaccine becomes more available, other groups in the initial tier of the vaccine pushout will be provided an opportunity to receive it such as outpatient and home health providers. These groups fall under the initial tier and will be vaccinated through a Washoe County Health District Point of Dispensing (POD) operation at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center.

**The COVID-19 Vaccine**

There are multiple vaccines that will seek Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A vaccine released under an EUA is still an unlicensed product. Under the terms of an EUA, a person must be informed of the significant known and potential benefits and risks of the emergency use of the product, and of the extent to which such benefits and risks are unknown; and of the alternatives to the product that are available, and of their benefits and risks. Information on the vaccine will become available upon the vaccine release and will be provided to the community.

As the COVID-19 vaccine will be released under an EUA, it is best practice to offer but not mandate vaccinations to staff. Based on local and national surveys on the public's willingness to take the COVID-19 vaccine under an EUA, it is important to identify staff that are willing to receive the vaccination, as some surveys report a low acceptance rate.

It is also important to note that the COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials are reactogenic. Those staff receiving the vaccine may develop a low-grade fever and may exhibit other symptoms to include fatigue. It is recommended that providers stagger their vaccination schedule to ensure they have available staff to maintain normal business operations.

**Healthcare Partner Sign-Ups**

As part of this vaccine pushout the WCHD is identifying and coordinating with non-hospital affiliated healthcare providers in Washoe County to develop a process for the registering and scheduling the vaccination of our county's healthcare workforce. In order to accomplish this task, the WCHD is requesting that all providers supply organizational information such as facility name, point of contact and number of staff willing to receive the vaccine. The following types of healthcare providers should complete the form using the link: <https://forms.washoecounty.us/f/COVIDVaccinations>

- Pharmacists and pharmacy support staff
- Laboratory personnel
- HMO medical centers
- Offices of physical, occupational and speech therapists
- Audiologists
- Family planning centers
- Outpatient mental health and substance abuse centers
- Kidney dialysis centers
- Freestanding ambulatory surgical and emergency centers
- Diagnostic imaging centers
- Home health care services

- Blood and organ banks
- Dentists
- Optometrists
- Chiropractors
- Mental health providers
- Podiatrists

All staff engaged in operations, to include; doctors, nurses, medical assistants, administration, front desk, etc. are eligible to receive the vaccine. Staff will be required to provide evidence of employment at facility which may include; ID badge, human resource list, employment letter.

### **Vaccine Registration Contact Information**

All outpatient and home health providers seeking to obtain COVID-19 vaccine in order to vaccinate their workforce are encouraged to complete the form using the link below:

<https://forms.washoecounty.us/f/COVIDVaccinations>

If you have questions, please email:

[Covidvaccine@washoecounty.us](mailto:Covidvaccine@washoecounty.us)

### **Acknowledgement**

We are grateful to all health care providers and first responders who are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response.