

COVID-19 VACCINE

I N F O R M A T I O N



COVID-19 VACCINE will be administered through the Riverside University Health System - Public Health in collaboration with state and federal officials. The allocation of the vaccine will be done through a phase and tier system that is subject to change as the pandemic response moves forward.

The first allocation (Phase 1A) will be for those healthcare workers in acute care hospitals with direct patient contact who have potential for direct or indirect exposure.

TIMING & AVAILABILITY OF VACCINES

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the Pfizer vaccine for emergency use authorization and is evaluating another highly effective COVID-19 vaccine. There are at least three more vaccines currently in large-scale clinical trials.
- While there will be a limited supply of vaccinations at least initially, the federal government has heavily invested in the development of vaccines to help manufacturers quickly ramp up production and expand their availability in the weeks and months ahead.
- Riverside County will receive its first doses of the vaccine on December 18 - prioritized for health care workers in acute care hospitals. Riverside County health officials are working closely with the state to guide distribution of later doses of the vaccine in the coming months, when supply will be sufficient for greater distribution.

SAFETY & EFFECTIVENESS

- The FDA established rigorous standards for COVID-19 clinical trials and top health experts evaluate the scientific data to determine the safety and effectiveness of all vaccines.
- California's Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, composed of nationally recognized immunization, public health, academic and other subject matter experts, including local health officials, provide a second-level review of all scientific and safety data prior to distribution in California. The information reviewed for the initial vaccines is already available - this secondary safety review is not expected to significantly affect the timeline for distribution.

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION & PRIORITIZATION

- California is planning to distribute and administer vaccines as quickly as possible once a vaccine's safety has been reviewed and approved by top health experts.
- While there will be a limited supply of vaccinations initially, California is making sure that supplies are distributed and administered equitably, in line with CDC guidance, with healthcare workers identified to receive the first round of vaccines.
- For the next phase of vaccinations, Riverside County health officials identified at-risk and vulnerable populations in the county vaccine distribution plan using state and federal guidance.