

# **Interim Provider Guidance for Vaccinating North Carolinians**

## **Summary Sheet of Updates**

### **Updated January 14, 2021**

#### **Overview of North Carolina's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan**

After months of planning, North Carolina began providing COVID-19 vaccinations on December 14, 2020. Our goal is to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible given the limited supply of vaccines. North Carolina will move through vaccination phases by aligning with recommended priorities while empowering local health departments and hospitals with flexibility to move to the next priority group as they complete groups and have vaccine available. The broader, simplified prioritization groups should remove barriers to identifying eligible individuals.

#### **Prioritization Groups**

- Group 1 Health care workers and Long-term care staff and residents — ACTIVE
- Group 2 Older adults (defined as 65 and above) — ACTIVE
- Group 3 Frontline essential workers — NOT YET OPEN
- Group 4 Adults at high risk for exposure and increased risk of severe illness — NOT YET OPEN
- Group 5 Everyone who wants a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccination — NOT YET OPEN

#### **Goals**

The goal of vaccinations in Group 1 is to protect health care workers who are a critical workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic and at risk for exposure to COVID-19 and North Carolinians who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.

The goal of vaccination in Group 2 is to save lives by protecting North Carolinians who are at high risk of being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19. NCDHHS recognizes that flexibility as vaccine roll-out continues will be necessary to ensure the demand meets supply efficiently and effectively.

#### **Vaccinating People as Quickly as Possible Given the Limited Vaccine Supply**

Local Health Departments, hospitals, and health systems should collaborate with other enrolled vaccine providers to determine how best to transfer vaccine to vaccinate individuals who fall into the active groups in the most expeditious manner possible to meet the needs of your unique communities. The goal is to use all allocated vaccine within 7 days, and it is important that no vaccine doses are wasted. Vaccine providers are encouraged to schedule appointments into the future beyond their current allocation and supply. It will be important to message and set expectations that ability to vaccinate will be dependent on available supply and that an appointment does not guarantee vaccine will be available at that time. It is the responsibility of all vaccine providers to ensure equitable access to vaccines. This will mean taking intentional actions to reach and engage historically marginalized communities.

#### **Modifications to the Pfizer/Moderna Standing Order Templates**

There are Pfizer/Moderna Standing Order templates that can be used and modified to meet local needs. The nurse should partner with the licensed medical provider signing the standing order so that 1) the

provider is comfortable with the order and 2) the nurses/health care worker are given clear instructions on how to carry out the order.

## Vaccinating Outside Jurisdiction

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has instructed states that this is a federal vaccine bought with federal funding. Hence, jurisdictions should not put restrictions on administering vaccinations to non-residents, if those persons meet the current eligibility criteria. This applies to both county and state residency.

## What do you have to do to be a COVID-19 vaccine provider?

In order to administer COVID-19 vaccine in North Carolina, providers must be enrolled in the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS). This is a secure, cloud-based vaccine management solution for COVID-19 that enables vaccine management and data sharing across NC providers, hospitals, agencies, and local, state, and federal governments on one common platform. Pharmacies (e.g., Walgreens and CVS) and providers enrolled through the Federal Government will not use CVMS. A complete listing of CVMS training materials are found on the [NC Immunization Branch website](#). In order to directly receive vaccine for distribution providers must complete the Activation process in CVMS.

Due to the number of providers who seek to receive and give vaccines, the department has established a priority list, beginning with the primary care workforce caring for adult patients and pharmacies and pediatrics following behind. The most important factor for rapid enrollment and activation in the CVMS system is timely submission and accuracy of content!

Training Program / Reference Material	Description
<a href="#">CVMS FAQ</a>	Frequently asked questions for CVMS.
<a href="#">CVMS Introduction</a>	Prepare for the new COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS) by learning what it is, who will be using it, and why.
<a href="#">CVMS Provider Enrollment Demo</a>	A recorded walk-through of the steps needed for Providers to complete enrollment in CVMS.
<a href="#">CVMS Readiness Training</a>	This readiness training will cover key actions you can do right now to prepare for CVMS and administering the COVID-19 vaccine. We will also review important upcoming dates to keep in mind as we prepare for CVMS go-live.
<a href="#">CVMS Readiness Checklist</a>	A comprehensive list of action items for Providers to complete before enrolling in CVMS. The action items are grouped by topic (Onboarding, Training, Communications and Vaccine Administration Preparation) and listed in recommended sequence to address.
<a href="#">CVMS Orientation Training</a>	In this training session, we will explain what CVMS is, who will be using it, and why we are using it as our statewide platform. We will also cover functionalities of the tool, including: Provider Enrollment, Recipient Registration, Recipient Vaccine Administration, and Inventory Management.