

# NEWS

## For Immediate Release

December 18, 2020

### **COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Central District Health region well underway; eligible healthcare workers receiving vaccine**

**Ada County, Idaho** — With the first COVID-19 vaccine shipments having arrived in Central District Health's (CDH) region this week, CDH continues its coordination efforts with state public health and healthcare providers throughout its jurisdiction of Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties.

The first vaccine shipments sent to Central District Health's region included 4,875 doses of the [Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine](#), which were divided between three healthcare entities – St. Luke's Health System, Saint Alphonsus Health System, and Primary Health Medical Group.

Idaho's vaccine rollout plans instruct local health districts to prioritize vaccine for local hospital staff and outpatient clinic staff who are providing care for COVID-19 patients. Hospital staff are essential for the care of COVID-19 patients and maintaining hospital capacity. After those facilities have been offered the vaccine, the remaining doses will be offered to additional groups following [Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee's \(CVAC\) recommendations](#).

"This is a very exciting step for our communities and our country as a whole. We want to remind people that these early shipments of vaccine will be limited, so our communities need to stay focused on the prevention measures such as wearing a mask, physical distancing, and avoiding gatherings. We expect the vaccine to be more readily available by spring of 2021 and are encouraged by the many inquires we are receiving each day from the public who are eager to get their vaccine," said Russ Duke, District Director for CDH.

With an anticipated upcoming shipment of the 9,600 Moderna vaccines to CDH's jurisdiction, CDH staff have been actively planning for the allocation of doses with various healthcare entities and providers. Because of easier storage requirements and smaller dosage quantities, a wider variety of area healthcare providers will have the capacity to receive, store, and provide the Moderna vaccine. Though shipments of the Moderna vaccine are anticipated soon, CDH's jurisdiction will continue receiving regular shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The availability of all COVID-19 vaccine doses within CDH's jurisdiction is highly variable and based on state and federal allocations, which are subject to change.

If you are a member of the general public seeking COVID-19 vaccination, CDH will release regular updates informing residents when and where vaccines will be available. It is important to note that there are no governmental entities in Idaho requiring anyone to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. While public health supports the COVID-19 vaccine, individuals can choose whether or not to pursue the vaccine as a protection measure. Public health urges its community members to seek reputable scientific-focused and proven sources for information around the COVID-19 vaccine, and general COVID-19 developments.

If you are a healthcare provider and fit within the priority group in Phase 1 and you would like to provide vaccine through your facility, please contact the [Idaho Immunization Program](#) for enrollment information.

### **More information on COVID-19 vaccine**

**Central District Health** | Visit CDH's vaccine webpage where information is being added as it becomes available. <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine.php>

**State of Idaho** | COVID-19 vaccine information – including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section: <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/covid-19-vaccine/>

Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC) | meetings are open to the public and can be viewed online at <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-covid-19-vaccine-advisory-committee/>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** | <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

**Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** | <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>

**For more information about COVID-19, visit  
<https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid>  
or call the CDH Call Center at 208-321-2222, Monday through Friday  
between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm**

*will operate with limited hours from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm on 12/24/20 and will be closed on 12/25/20*

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### **Media Contacts:**

Brandon Atkins, 208-559-2839 | [batkins@cdh.idaho.gov](mailto:batkins@cdh.idaho.gov)

Christine Myron, 208-871-1712 | [cmyron@cdh.idaho.gov](mailto:cmyron@cdh.idaho.gov)