

NEWS

For Immediate Release

January 14, 2021

Central District Health working to respond to recent changes to vaccine prioritization amidst limited vaccine supply

Ada County, Idaho — On January 12, 2021, Governor Little announced his decision on who would be included in Group 2.1 of the State's Vaccine Plan and to allow them to be vaccinated starting January 13, 2021. Group 2.1 includes First Responders and Safety, Education, and Correctional and Detention Facility Staff. While Central District Health understands the desire to move forward with additional groups eligible for vaccine, current vaccine demand in CDH's jurisdiction of Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties far exceeds vaccine supply, and at this time, a significant increase in supply is not anticipated in the coming weeks.

Despite this current limitation, CDH is working with its community partners to develop a log of businesses and organizations immediately eligible for vaccine. If you are within the 2.1 Subgroup, you do not have to do anything at this time. CDH is working to connect with and capture organizations/businesses/agencies/professionals through existing relationships and sources. CDH is providing these organization names and estimated doses needed to enrolled vaccine providers. These vaccine providers will reach out to the eligible organizations to schedule as vaccine is available.

While interest in vaccine is high, weekly vaccine allotments are limited at this time and will impact how quickly individuals can get vaccinated. There will likely be a delay between when your organization is assigned to a vaccine provider and when you are offered appointments to receive a vaccine.

"Our process was created, recognizing that we are working with far more demand than there is supply right now. CDH is connecting eligible groups to enrolled vaccinators who are actively receiving vaccine during this stage in the process. However, CDH does not want to be a barrier to vaccine and recognizes that some individuals may choose to schedule their own appointment through a known vaccine provider," said Russ Duke, District Director for CDH.

CDH's current process also aims to streamline access for those who qualify at this time so they do not need to call around to find a vaccine provider. "Once vaccine becomes more available, we anticipate providing a list of enrolled vaccinators to the community for use. CDH appreciates the interest being seen and heard, and along with vaccine providers, is committed to getting our community vaccinated as quickly as possible," said Duke.

Vaccine allocation process

CDH continues to receive weekly dose allocations through the Idaho Immunization Program within the Department of Health and Welfare. Allotment information for Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties, is received by Thursday mornings. From the weekly assigned vaccine allotment, CDH determines quantities to allocate to each enrolled vaccine provider by Friday. Vaccine shipments are typically received the following Wednesday by the enrolled provider. *Note:* This is fluid and subject to change at any time. CDH does not hold vaccine for its jurisdiction; all vaccine allotments are assigned and directly shipped from the manufacturer to the vaccine provider each week.

What should people in the 65+ years old group do right now?

Per Governor Little's recent announcement (Jan. 12, 2021), adults 65 years and older will be eligible for vaccine on Feb. 1, 2021. CDH does not have a waitlist or log process for vaccine for this Group. Instead, they will seek vaccine through their primary care provider. For those who do not have one, or if their primary care provider is not an enrolled vaccinator, CDH will provide a list of enrolled vaccine providers. More information will be forthcoming.

CDH Call Center is open but experiencing high call volume

Our call center is committed to answering your questions and providing you with information. However, we are receiving a very high call volume this week that has caused long wait times for some callers. We are working on ways to expand our call center staffing during this increase and are expanding our call center hours to include Saturdays from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm through the end of January. We are also working to recruit and train new team members to staff our call center. **Saturday hours will begin this Saturday, Jan. 16.**

- CDH Call Center - 208-321-2222 Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; Saturdays in January from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
- CDH Vaccine Webpage & Information Sign Up: <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine.php>
- State of Idaho COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC) Vaccine Prioritization (updated Jan. 12, 2021): <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prioritization-Groups-1-and-2-FINAL.pdf>

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 + Saturdays in January from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

(Note: The call center is closed most holidays but will operate with limited hours from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / Idaho Human Rights Day, Monday, Jan. 18.)

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