



PHG Update: December 17

Dear Valued Providers

We want to be a resource to our Premier Health Group Independent providers. As our health care system begins to stabilize, we will provide clinical and operational updates as they become available to continue and provide support to providers.

In addition, we have created a resources page on the [PHG website](#).

Please feel free to contact us directly at **(937) 499-7441** if you have any questions

Yours sincerely,

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Coronavirus Vaccination Distribution

We would like to share some additional information regarding the coronavirus vaccine distribution plan. Many providers have recently raised questions asking about Premier Health's plans for COVID-19 vaccinations. While the complete plan is not ready for distribution yet, we would like to share the details we have available.

All five Premier Health Hospitals are presently expected to receive an allocation of over 5,000 Moderna's mRNA vaccines by **December 22**. If the FDA grants an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), as is expected this week, we will likely begin vaccination by December 23. This timeline and expected vaccine allotment are subject to change based on availability and granting of EUA. Exactly who will be included in this first wave of immunizations is being finalized and will largely depend on the amount of vaccine ultimately received. **We anticipate that all providers who provide care for COVID patients in the hospital and ambulatory locations will be included in this initial group, including non-employed providers.** Specifics about where and when to schedule vaccines and logistics will be shared widely as information is distributed across the system.

In addition, we recently shared some FAQs regarding the vaccine that was distributed last week and contained some pertinent information. For ease, we have included these FAQs on the page below. Moderna's complete safety data set is not yet public, and some additional details regarding the vaccine itself will not be available until the EUA is granted.

If there are any specific questions we can address, please do not hesitate to reach out to PHG.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Coronavirus Vaccination

Will receiving a flu vaccine protect against COVID-19?

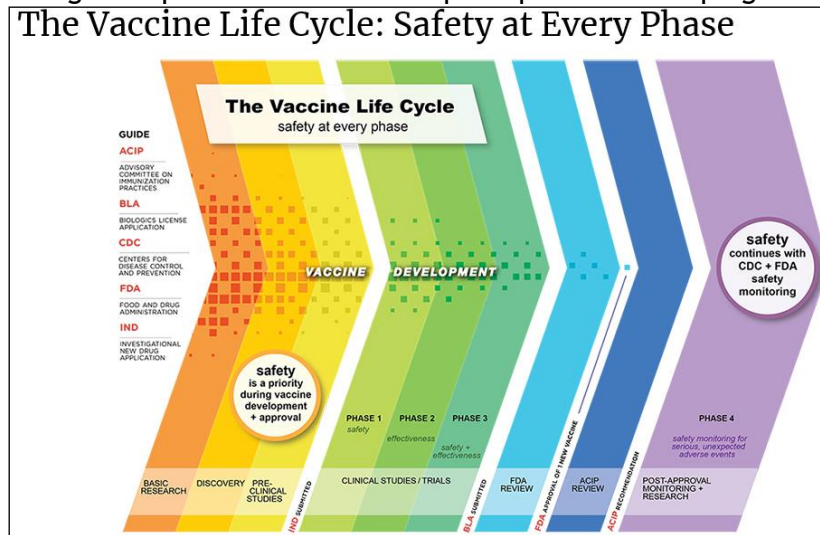
Getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19; however, flu vaccination has many other important benefits. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death. Getting a flu vaccination is important to not only reduce the risks associated with flu but also to help conserve potentially scarce health care resources.

Does the vaccine take into account a wide array of diverse backgrounds?

The disparate impact of the coronavirus on diverse populations has been well documented. For this reason, several vaccine manufacturers have reported that they relied on simultaneous studies across the world to ensure a diverse group of study participants in determining effectiveness.

Is the vaccine safe?

Safety is a top priority in the vaccine development. For more information, visit the CDC website [here](#). There are rigorous phases and scientific principles in developing a new vaccine. Here is a summary:



Why do we need a COVID-19 vaccine?

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like wearing masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccines listed?

No. The two vaccines expected to be received by Ohio do not contain any live virus and cannot cause an infection with SARS-CoV-2. The vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna only contain a small amount of the virus' genetic material that helps trigger an immune response by the body to help protect itself.

Is it safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women to get the vaccine?

Exclusions will likely be identified and may include women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. These exclusions will be part of the final communication prior to vaccine distribution.

Many COVID-19 vaccines are administered as a two-dose series. After receiving the initial dose, a second vaccine administration is required 21 or 28 days later with the exact timing for the second dose depending on the vaccine manufacturer. At this time, we do not know if additional boosters or an annual vaccine will be necessary.

How often will I need to get the vaccine?

Many COVID-19 vaccines are administered as a two-dose series. After receiving the initial dose, a second vaccine administration is required 21 or 28 days later with the exact timing for the second dose depending on the vaccine manufacturer. At this time, we do not know if additional boosters or an annual vaccine will be necessary.

If someone receives the vaccine, will they be exempt from wearing a mask?

The vaccine won't provide protections from COVID-19 for every person who is inoculated, and the vaccine also does not provide immediate immunity (but rather triggers a response in the body to build immunity). Therefore, for now we'll continue to follow guidelines to decrease the risk of spread, including masks, distancing, limiting employee density, limiting travel and improving ventilation, barriers and procedures that limit close and sustained contact.

