

COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet

What you need to know

- Vaccination is the best way to keep yourself, your family and your community healthy.
- COVID-19 vaccines are 95% effective and have undergone rigorous safety testing.
- People who are most affected by the COVID-19 virus will have first access to the vaccination. In Oregon, that will be front-line health care workers who are exposed to the virus in their work.
- Vaccination gives us hope that the pandemic will end, but in the meantime, we need to continue safety measures to keep the virus from spreading: Wear a mask, physically distance from others, wash your hands, avoid gatherings, and stay home when you're sick.

How the vaccine will be distributed

- As COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will ensure the distribution process is based on community involvement that will provide an equitable system challenging the roles of power, privilege and racism — informed by a newly assembled Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC).
- Using an equity framework, OHA will distribute COVID-19 vaccine in line with CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) recommended phased approach:
 - 1A. Health care workers, with first distribution to those with direct exposure to COVID-19 in their work (such as hospital paid and unpaid workers, from clinicians to maintenance), EMS, long-term care facilities (LTCF) employees and residents.
 - 1B. Essential workers such as teachers, bus drivers, food processors and other people who keep our society open and economy moving. Our Vaccine Advisory Committee, representing community perspectives, will identify and prioritize this group..
 - 1C. People with underlying health conditions, and people over the age of 65. (B and C completed in late spring, depending on vaccine availability).

Timeline

- OHA is ready to receive and distribute COVID-19 vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are reportedly about 95% effective after two doses, one month apart. After FDA approval in December, the Pfizer vaccine will arrive in Oregon on Dec. 15, and Moderna the following week, for immediate distribution to hospitals across the state.
- We expect Pfizer to send 35,100 doses on Dec. 15; 10,950 on Dec. 22 and 48,750 on Dec. 29 (12/29 shipment includes second doses). Moderna will send 71,000 on Dec. 22 and 31,700 on Dec. 29 (12/29 shipment includes second doses), **for a total of 197,500 doses in December—enough to immunize about 100,000 people.** These number may change!

About the vaccine

- Both vaccines are messenger RNA, or mRNA, vaccines that contain material from the virus that causes COVID-19 that gives our cells instructions for how to fight the virus if we are infected in the future. The FDA requires rigorous safety testing before approving any vaccine.
- The COVID-19 vaccine will be available at no cost, though providers may charge insurance an administration fee.