



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Office of the State Public Health Director

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon
Health
Authority

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 930
Portland, OR 97232
Voice: 971-673-1222
FAX: 971-673-1299
TTY: 711

January, 21, 2021

Rick Dyer, Chair, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Mark Orndoff, Local Public Health Administrator, Jackson County
104 S. Holly Street
Medford, OR 97501

Dear Chair Dyer and Mr. Orndoff:

OHA has reviewed your COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1a Attestation Letter and Form. Thank you for the efforts of the local public health authority and its partners to assure access to COVID-19 vaccine for the 1a eligible populations.

After reviewing your submission, OHA agrees that Jackson County and its partners may move on to vaccinating early learning employees, childcare providers and K-12 education employees at this time. Persons over age 65 are not yet eligible for vaccine per Governor Brown's updated sequencing announcement on January 15, 2021.

Health equity remains the guiding principle for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Phase 1a populations continue to be eligible and prioritized for vaccine. Jackson County and its partners need to continue to reach these populations with special attention to persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their caregivers, traditional health workers and health care interpreters. Individuals eligible for vaccination may be vaccinated anywhere in Oregon, not just their county of residence.

We will be posting your attestation letter and form as well as this response to the OHA website for the purpose of transparency.

Thank you again for your continued efforts through this unprecedented pandemic.

Sincerely,

Rachael Banks, MPA
Public Health Director,
Oregon Health Authority
She/her/hers



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon
Health
Authority

500 Summer St NE E20

Salem OR 97301

Voice: 503-947-2340

Fax: 503-947-2341

January 16, 2020

Dear Board Chairs and Local Public Health Administrators:

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) appreciates all you are doing to help to vaccinate Oregonians against COVID-19. As you are aware, using a framework of equity and individual, environmental and activity factors that may put individuals at increased risk for contracting or spreading the virus, OHA identified the individuals who are eligible for vaccination in Phase 1a. These prioritized groups should have access to what is still a limited amount of vaccine. OHA must have assurances that local public health authority (LPHA) jurisdictions have made sufficient efforts to vaccinate the individuals in Phase 1a, including having done outreach and providing vaccination opportunities.

Therefore, we are asking that you review the attached Phase 1a checklist and let us know whether you have made sufficient efforts to offer vaccinations and vaccinate all individuals in Phase 1a populations and are ready to move to Phase 1b. We ask that in addition to checking the appropriate box below that you include documentation regarding your outreach and vaccination efforts in reaching individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, traditional health workers, health care interpreters and individuals in adult foster homes. If there are barriers to reaching all individuals in Phase 1a please include that information as well and how you have or intend to address them.

If your jurisdiction has sufficiently moved through all Phase 1a populations and are ready to move to Phase 1b, please complete the attached attestation form and a letter providing the documentation described above regarding efforts to reach individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, traditional health workers, health care interpreters and individuals in adult foster homes.

Individuals eligible for vaccination may be vaccinated anywhere in Oregon, not just their county of residence.

Local public health jurisdictions may and are expected to start vaccinating K-12 education and early learning staff beginning January 25th and seniors in accordance with OHA's established age groups, beginning February 8th. All individuals in the Phase 1a category continue to be eligible for vaccines.

OHA may request additional information if needed and will provide feedback regarding whether you have made sufficient efforts to vaccinate those in Phase 1a. You may not move to vaccinate individuals in Phase 1b other than K-12 education and early learning staff or seniors without OHA approval.

Please note that information about the LPHA jurisdiction's attestation regarding Phase 1a will be made available publicly. Both the Local Public Health Administrator and County or Public Health District Board Chair must sign the form and letter, pursuant to their authority under ORS 431.413, 431.415, and 431.418.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Allen

Director, Oregon Health Authority



- I have reviewed the attached checklist and affirm that the LPHA jurisdiction has made sufficient efforts to ensure that the individuals in Phase 1a have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- The LPHA jurisdiction is ready to move onto vaccinating individuals in Phase 1b, starting with staff in K-12 education and early learning settings, and as vaccine becomes available, individuals 65 and older.
- The LPHA jurisdiction will continue to make efforts to reach out to individuals in Phase 1a who have not yet been vaccinated, provide initial vaccinations for these individuals not yet vaccinated, and will ensure that individuals in Phase 1a get their booster dose.
- The LPHA jurisdiction has ensured that vaccines sites are culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate and accessible to people with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities.

X

Board Chair
Electronic signature (PC only).

X

Local Public Health Administrator
Electronic signature (PC only).

Dear Danna,

This letter represents documentation regarding our outreach and vaccination efforts in reaching individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, traditional health workers, health care interpreters, and individuals in adult foster homes, including how we are addressing barriers to reaching all individuals in Phase 1a.

Outreach to Phase 1a Populations

Outreach to all populations, including all of the aforementioned Phase 1a populations, occurs via daily press releases and Jackson County website updates. Press releases related to vaccines started on December 20, 2020.

- Website regarding vaccine, eligible groups, and where they can get vaccinated: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/General/News-Information/covid-19-vaccine>
- Daily press releases promoting vaccine for Phase 1a: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/hhs/COVID-19>

Regarding outreach for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and adult foster homes, the local State Senior and Disability Services Director attends our weekly Medical Advisory Group meetings where we discuss vaccination strategies for the Phase 1a groups. Vaccination of these populations has been challenging, as we have more than 60 adult foster homes in our community. To meet this challenge, Mercy Flights agreed to vaccinate this population and is working with Jackson County Developmentally Disability Services to coordinate these efforts. We are also in conversation with the Medford Senior Office to ensure communication to adult foster homes regarding vaccination options.

For outreach to traditional health workers and health care interpreters, Jackson County, Providence, Asante, Children and Adolescents Clinics, and La Clinica have been doing outreach to Phase 1a groups, including traditional health workers and health care interpreters. These entities have conducted outreach with their own employees and through direct contact with other entities that employ health care workers.

In an effort to improve outreach to the Latinx community regarding COVID, including vaccinating Phase 1a populations within that community, Jackson County Public Health hired a bilingual/bicultural person to coordinate Community Based Organization work and outreach to the Latinx community.

In addition, Jackson County Public Health facilitates a weekly Vaccination Planning Group with COVID vaccination providers. Much of the meetings are dedicated to discussing outreach to the various Phase 1a groups. We determine which agency is vaccinating which Phase 1a groups, identify gaps, identify which agency can vaccinate particular groups, and develop strategies for vaccination of those populations.

Jackson County Vaccination Event January 21-23

As you know, the National Guard is being deployed to Jackson County to assist in a Phase 1a vaccination event at the Jackson County Expo on January 21-23 with the vaccine being provided by Asante and Providence. The event has been promoting vaccination for all Phase 1a groups via social media, press releases, and press conferences. A sign-up website for pre-registration for the vaccination event was launched at noon on Monday, January 18. As of today, January 20, there are only approximately 1,000 people signed up for the event, with around 200 Phase 1a individuals signed up for vaccination on Thursday, January 21.

Our goal is to vaccinate at least 5,000 individuals during the event. As such, we would like to begin vaccinating Phase 1B Group 1 (Childcare providers, early learning and K-12 educators and staff) in order to ensure we can get as many shots in arms while we have the resources of the National Guard in Jackson County. We realize that we only have the assistance of the National Guard for a short window of time, and we want to efficiently deploy our supply of vaccinations to as many community members as we can. We are concerned that limiting the deployment of vaccinations to Phase 1a populations would not exhaust our supply of vaccinations, nor would it best serve the interests of our community.

Phase 1a will be prioritized

I want emphasize that we will continue to vaccinate Phase 1a groups. As referenced above, we meet with our medical community twice per week to identify pathways to vaccinate Phase 1a, and will continue to do so. Asante is providing 500-800 vaccinations per day to individuals within the Phase 1a populations. This number does not include the vaccines being provided by Jackson County Public Health, Providence, Mercy Flights, our Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other providers to Phase 1A groups. As part of this effort, Jackson County Public Health is transferring many of the vaccines it receives to providers that can reach Phase 1a groups.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and please reach out to Jackson Baures should there be additional questions.