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Memorandum

To: Health care and public health partners

From: The Oregon Health Authority

Date: January 5, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Phase 1a Sequencing Update

We are providing an update to [Oregon's Phase 1a Vaccination Sequencing Plan](#) published on December 18, 2020. Oregon's Phase 1a Plan is consistent with but broader than the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP) recommendations for the initial phase of COVID-19 vaccine distribution. The original intent of the Plan was to phase vaccine distribution and administration to allow for logistical considerations and account for equity, individual, environmental, and activity factors that suggest increased risk for contracting or spreading the virus or experiencing especially serious health consequences from the virus.

Keeping at the forefront our commitment to equity while considering the operational challenges in COVID-19 vaccine deployment, **we are shifting our approach from one where Phase 1a vaccine sequencing was required, to allowing anyone included in Phase 1a, Groups 1-4 to be considered eligible for vaccine at this time. Providers and vaccine sites should vaccinate in a manner that provides the greatest efficiency to maximize vaccinations, however to the extent possible providers should follow the sequencing outlined in the Plan.**

In order to maximize vaccination efforts, OHA is leveraging existing systems that are in place for vaccination operations, such as hospitals, health systems, EMS agencies and local public health authorities. OHA encourages these vaccine delivery partners to continue working together to vaccinate individuals in Phase 1a.

The federal pharmacy partnership program will continue to serve many long-term care and congregate care facilities within the Phase 1a groups. State officials are actively reviewing the list of participating facilities in the federal vaccine program. The state is still working to assess how to support providers who were not eligible or did not register for the program. The state will keep a list of congregate care facilities (e.g., adult foster homes for older adults, adults with disabilities, adults experiencing behavioral health issues, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as group care homes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and behavioral health residential treatment homes and facilities) needing vaccine assistance and work with state strategies for these sites.

For individuals not connected to one of the Phase 1a congregate care sites or to a hospital, large health system or employer, OHA and regional partners are working diligently to finalize and communicate options for vaccine access. These options will be communicated as soon as further details are available. If, in the meantime, a Local Public Health Authority and/or its partner(s) have sufficient doses and resources to proceed with vaccinating staff and residents in a congregate care facility that **is not enrolled** in the federal pharmacy partnership program, the LPHA and/or its partner(s) may proceed with those vaccinations.

Independent of this Phase 1a shift, allocations to vaccine sites will look different from the initial allocations as additional vaccine sites are enrolled. OHA will work to ensure that vaccine allocations support vaccination operations in communities in alignment with the Group 1-4 sequencing to the extent possible.

OHA will be publishing additional information related to COVID-19 vaccination by Friday, January 8th related to Phase 1a vaccine distribution and administration. The OHA will also publish updates when individuals in addition to those included in Phase 1a Groups 1 to 4 are eligible to receive vaccine.

If you have any questions related to COVID-19 vaccines in the meantime, please send your questions to one of the following so OHA can assist.

COVID-19 vaccine general: Covid19.vaccine@dhsoha.state.or.us

COVID-19 vaccine provider enrollment: Vaccine.ProviderEnroll@dhsoha.state.or.us

COVID-19 vaccine advisory committee: Covid.vaccineadvisory@dhsoha.state.or.us

Resources can also be found at OHA's COVID-19 Vaccine Website:
<http://healthoregon.org/covidvaccine>