

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

This week marked the next milestone in this international pandemic. Ohio welcomed its first shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine and brought with it a renewed hope that there is an end in sight. I am providing you with what information I have right now about the vaccine and what to expect in Medina County in the near future.

What do we know so far?

The COVID-19 vaccine has been a worldwide open collaboration with unprecedented sharing of research and financial risk among companies and countries. mRNA technology has been researched for decades and is the basis for the first two vaccines that are being distributed. The Pfizer vaccine has an emergency use authorization (EUA) and first doses were administered in Ohio yesterday. The Moderna vaccine is scheduled for FDA and [VRBPAC](#) review and approval this week. Medina County Health Department is registered and approved to receive both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

What does this mean for Medina County?

Based on federal recommendations, Ohio is taking a [phased approach](#) to vaccination. Medina County Health Department is obligated to follow the directions of the Ohio Department of Health on when various groups of individuals are eligible. The first doses allocated to local health departments are expected to arrive by next week.

For the limited supply in Phase 1, EMS, group homes, congregate settings without a federal program partner match, and medical service providers not affiliated with a hospital will be the first groups the Health Department will vaccinate. Weekly shipments of doses are anticipated and groups in Phase 1 will be contacted to schedule times for vaccination.

My commitment to the citizens of Medina County is that when vaccine is made available to the Health Department, it will be given on a voluntary basis to groups as quickly as possible.

Employees in Phase 1 who work in Medina County will be eligible to receive here, just as county residents who are employed in another county would be eligible there.

After many months of anxiously awaiting this stage of the pandemic, I want to assure you that all efforts have been made to prepare for vaccine distribution. There are many partners who will be involved with helping us connect and communicate with eligible residents through each phase.

Even with a steady supply of vaccine, it will take several months to provide community protection. We must remain attentive to our interactions and use caution during the winter months.

Changes to protocols The Health Department, as a good financial steward, is suspending automatic mailing of isolation and quarantine letter due to U.S. Postal service delays. If your employer requires a letter to return to work, you may request one by calling 330-723-9688 option 2

Ohio's Vaccination Program
– A Phased Approach

GOALS Save lives and slow the spread of the virus. In the early vaccination phase, supply will be limited. The speed at which Ohio will move through the phases is largely dependent upon the number of vaccine doses available.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3 - 4
Supply Limited Vaccine is available in limited supply for specific critical populations. Ohio will focus on vaccinating those most at risk, as well as essential healthcare workers and personnel caring for COVID-19 patients. Vaccines will not yet be available for all Ohioans.	Supply Increasing Vaccine is increasing and available for other specific critical populations who choose to be vaccinated. Vaccines will not yet be available for all Ohioans.	Widely Available Once the vaccine is widely available, Ohio will continue to strategically vaccinate Ohioans if they choose. During these phases, vaccines will begin to be available to all Ohioans.

As supply increases, COVID-19 vaccines will be available to all Ohioans who choose to be vaccinated.

MIKE DEWINE GOVERNOR OF OHIO | Ohio Department of Health | coronavirus.ohio.gov