

COVID-19

January 11, 2020

Vaccine Distribution Update

- As of yesterday evening, 76,882 vaccines have been administered in Nebraska. Over 38,000 doses were administered last week. Nebraska is one of the top states regarding amount of doses used.
- DHHS launched a [COVID-19 vaccination dashboard](#) at the beginning of January. Evaluation of the various data points continue to be evaluated and updates will be made as deemed necessary.
- Individuals age 75 and older are now included in Phase 1B as recommended by CDC/ACIP.
- Of the total number of individuals that comprise the State's Phase 1A allocation, 90,000 are healthcare providers.
- Weekly, the state has been allocated 11,700 vaccines from Pfizer and 11,200 from Moderna.
- In Nebraska, we **Do NOT** send all of our vaccine to a central location.
- The allocations go to healthcare systems, local health departments and select pharmacies.
- There are concerns that vaccine distributed versus what has been administered gives the appearance of the State sitting on vaccine. A number of factors may be impacting this:
 - Allocations specifically designated for the second series dose will only be used for the second dose and will be reserved to ensure vaccine efficacy.
 - A large portion of allocated doses were set aside to the long-term care facility (LTCF) program. This federal partnership with CVS and Walgreens requires that a certain level doses be set aside **BEFORE** vaccination in nursing homes could start. Vaccinating in LTCFs began last week, but it will take time for the doses allocated to this program to show up in the "administered" column.
 - It will take time for CVS and Walgreens to vaccinate nursing home residents and staff. CVS and Walgreens are scheduling clinics in skilled nursing facilities well into late January.
 - Doses distributed to hospitals will not be administered overnight. Hospitals are moving at a very deliberate pace. Providers need to be trained and healthcare personnel need to receive education about the vaccine.
 - Hospitals are spreading out their vaccinations for many reasons: staggering staff so that reactions to the vaccine don't result in large numbers of staff out sick on the same day, building confidence and trust in the vaccine, working out clinic management and throughput, understanding the realities of handling a very delicate vaccine, etc.
 - Hospitals are also stretched very thin right now; we're asking for a lot of their time, resources, space, energy and effort to coordinate vaccine clinics. They have to approach vaccination in the midst of caring for patients.
 - Vaccine administration was definitely impacted by the holidays of Christmas and New Year's.
 - There is a balance between controlling the vaccine in order to avoid waste/vaccinate those who are prioritized and rapidly getting the vaccine into arms.

Federal Pharmacy Program – LTFCs:

- In accordance with federal guidelines, Nebraska launched its Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program **December 28, 2020**.
- The federal pharmacy program, for 4 weeks, received 100% of the incoming Pfizer allocation to support efforts in our long-term care facilities (LTFCs). This week is the last week that the full Pfizer allocation will be 100% reserved for the Federal Pharmacy Program.

Technology Solutions:

- Nebraska is working to set up a Vaccine Registration and Administration System by late January.
 - This system will allow Nebraskans to register to receive the vaccine by entering some basic information that is used in the CDC guidelines to determine when their phase is open. Required information includes: name, date of birth, email address, phone number, occupation and some health questions.
 - This information is strictly confidential and will only be used to determine phase eligibility and to administer the vaccine.
 - The COVID-19 Hotline is assisting with vaccine calls. We also are working to have a specific in-house call center to assist with those who do not have internet service to register for a vaccine phase.

Testing Update:

- In the State as of yesterday evening, there are 176,026 positive reported cases of COVID-19.
- 1,852,051 tests have been completed.
- The average turnaround time for test results is 1.3 days. The State's testing program, Test Nebraska, is averaging less than 24 hours.
- We remain in DHM Phase Blue with 475 active hospitalizations.

Things to Remember:

- CDC continues to work with Nebraska and other jurisdictions across the state on their readiness efforts. There will be challenges as the COVID-19 vaccination program rolls out – that is normal for an effort of this size and scope. However, public health experts have extensive experience with vaccine distribution and administration and will work to quickly overcome any obstacle.
- Some states are considering opening up vaccinations to people 65+. This is under consideration in Nebraska.