

Resources & Equipment

Vaccines and vigilance

With the FDA granting an EUA for the Pfizer vaccine (BNT162b2), the wheels are in motion to get doses to states, hospitals and others for distribution. Idaho has already received a shipment and inaugural doses have been given. Another shipment is expected tomorrow. All told, Idaho will receive 13,650 doses this week. To track vaccination coverage, a new NHSN module is being deployed. This is the same system facilities regularly use to report flu vaccinations. Each acute and long term care facility administering vaccines will need to input the data on vaccinations of healthcare workers on a weekly basis.

Frontline healthcare workers will be the first to receive the vaccine. Long term care facility residents should start receiving vaccinations beginning December 28. This vaccine requires two doses, 21 days apart. No other vaccines (flu, etc.) can be administered within 14 days of this COVID vaccine.

For those planning to receive or administer the vaccine, several resources were released over the weekend:

- CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [recommendation](#)
- Fact Sheet for [healthcare providers administering the vaccine](#) (FDA)
- Fact Sheet for [recipients of the vaccine and their caregivers](#) (FDA)
- IDHW's [resource and guidance](#) for the vaccine

In addition, the CDC has also provided an algorithm for triaging individuals seeking the vaccine (below) and additional information from their *What Every Clinician Should Know About COVID-19 Vaccine Safety* webinar today. The image below takes you to the slides from that presentation.

As the vaccines begin to bring light to the end of a long tunnel, healthcare leaders throughout the Treasure Valley [signed onto an op-ed](#) thanking those public officials who have supported our hospitals and healthcare teams in stressing the need for Idahoans to remain vigilant in the fight against COVID.

Algorithm for the triage of persons presenting for Pfizer-COVID-19 vaccine

	PROCEED WITH VACCINATION	PRECAUTION TO VACCINATION	CONTRAINDICATION TO VACCINATION
CONDITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Immunocompromising conditions •Pregnancy •Lactation ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Additional counseling* •15-minute observation period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moderate/severe acute illness ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Risk assessment •Potential deferral of vaccination •15-minute observation period if vaccinated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •None ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •N/A
ALLERGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •History of food, pet, insect, venom, environmental, latex, etc., allergies •History of allergy to oral medications (including the oral equivalent of an injectable medication) •Non-serious allergy to vaccines or other injectables (e.g., no anaphylaxis) •Family history of anaphylaxis ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •15-minute observation period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •History of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to another vaccine (not including Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine) •History of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to an injectable medication ACTIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Risk assessment •Potential deferral of vaccination •30-minute observation period if vaccinated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •History of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine ACTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Do not vaccinate

* See Special Populations section for information on patient counseling in these groups

29

Reimbursement & Policy

Crisis Standards of Care adopted

On Friday, the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare unanimously [approved a temporary rule](#) outlining the process for activating Crisis Standards of Care. During an emergency or extraordinary circumstance when Idaho's healthcare system is overwhelmed and providers are unable to meet the usual standards of care, this plan delineates how Crisis Standards of Care are enacted as well as the process for triage and the roles and responsibilities for various agencies and organizations. The approved plan can be read [here](#).

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