



BHR Bulletin, COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATES

Updated Jan. 11, 2021

Information provided is taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) and Oregon Health Authority ([OHA](#)) resources, with input from our own Joel Michels, Nurse Practitioner, Occupational Health and Well-being Program Manager.

1. **Q:** How are vaccines being allocated?

A: Both the [CDC](#) and [OHA](#) have released plans for allocation based on getting vaccine to those at highest risk first, with careful consideration and action to reach those being most affected by COVID-19. The plan is to distribute vaccine in phases -- targeting healthcare personnel, first responders, and people living and working in long-term care and assisted living facilities first. Subsequent phases will get vaccine to those with pre-existing health conditions, older age groups, and frontline essential workers.

2. **Q:** Why are there phases? Isn't there enough vaccine for everyone?

A: Not yet. Phases are needed to get the vaccine to those at the highest risk and people having complications from COVID-19. Production of vaccine is ongoing and eventually everyone will have an opportunity to be vaccinated.

3. **Q:** When will I receive my vaccine?

A: It depends on which phase targets you, and when vaccine is available. While you may be offered vaccine from your employer (more on that below), it might be faster to get vaccinated by your primary care provider or a pharmacy if you have a health condition or your age puts you into a high-risk group in one of the earlier phases.

4. **Q:** How long until essential workers and other staff are offered shots?

A: It depends on how long it takes for everyone in prior phases to get theirs. We are estimating the frontline essential workers' phase may come in early March, but planning is underway preparing for a possible earlier date. No decisions have been finalized about how or where employees will get their shots -- expect more information about this in the coming weeks.

The intent of this information is to help you make an informed decision about vaccination. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact Joel.Michels@portlandoregon.gov.