

## Phases for COVID-19 Vaccine

### Phase 1A: Health Care Workers and Long-Term Care Residents

- **Health Care Worker Definition:** Paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. This includes persons in training (i.e., nursing/medical students). Individuals who perform multiple functions should be vaccinated according to their highest priority tier.
- **Long-Term Care Definition:** Adults who reside in congregate facilities that provide a variety of services, including medical and personal care, to persons who are unable to live independently (i.e., skilled, basic, assisted living facilities, veterans' homes, low-income senior housing, group homes and intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities).

The following table provides guidance to health care facilities and the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) regarding how to prioritize limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine amongst health care workers and long-term care residents in Phase 1A.

Tiers within Phase 1A	Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)	Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)	Community (Not Health System Associated)	Long Term Care Staff and Residents
<b>Tier IA*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical care staff/physicians</li> <li>• ER staff/physicians</li> <li>• Infectious disease physicians</li> <li>• Hospitalists</li> <li>• ER triage</li> <li>• Primary care nursing (RN, LPN, CNA)</li> <li>• Anesthesia</li> <li>• Respiratory therapy</li> <li>• Primary care physicians</li> </ul>			

<b>Tiers within Phase 1A</b>	<b>Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)</b>	<b>Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)</b>	<b>Community (Not Health System Associated)</b>	<b>Long Term Care Staff and Residents</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First responders</li> <li>• Phlebotomy staff</li> <li>• Radiology Staff</li> <li>• COVID-19 vaccinators</li> </ul>			
<b>Tier IA*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical care staff/physicians</li> <li>• ER staff/physicians</li> <li>• Infectious disease physicians</li> <li>• Hospitalists</li> <li>• ER triage</li> <li>• Primary care nursing (RN, LPN, CNA)</li> <li>• Anesthesia</li> <li>• Respiratory therapy</li> <li>• Primary care physicians</li> <li>• Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</li> <li>• Phlebotomy staff</li> <li>• Radiology Staff</li> <li>• COVID-19 vaccinators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical care staff/physicians</li> <li>• ER staff/physicians</li> <li>• Infectious disease physicians</li> <li>• Hospitalists</li> <li>• ER triage</li> <li>• Primary care nursing (RN, LPN, CNA)</li> <li>• Anesthesia</li> <li>• Respiratory therapy</li> <li>• Primary care physicians</li> <li>• First responders</li> <li>• Phlebotomy staff</li> <li>• Radiology Staff</li> <li>• COVID-19 vaccinators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First responders</li> <li>• COVID-19 vaccinators (local public health, pharmacists/interns/techs, National Guard, nursing students)</li> <li>• COVID-19 specimen collectors (i.e., static testing sites)</li> <li>• Staff of urgent care centers with direct patient contact</li> <li>• Acute care clinic staff with direct patient care</li> </ul>	
<b>Tier IB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home health staff/hospice</li> <li>• General Surgeons</li> <li>• Laboratory staff</li> <li>• Inpatient pharmacy</li> <li>• Patient transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home health staff/hospice</li> <li>• General Surgeons</li> <li>• Laboratory staff</li> <li>• Inpatient pharmacy</li> <li>• Patient transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home health staff/hospice</li> <li>• Laboratory Staff</li> <li>• Patient transport (i.e., dialysis, long term care to hospital)</li> <li>• Oral surgeons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Term Care Staff and Residents</li> </ul>
<b>Tier II</b>	Health care workers with direct patient contact who are 65 or older OR have underlying health conditions putting them at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness.			

Tiers within Phase 1A	Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)	Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)	Community (Not Health System Associated)	Long Term Care Staff and Residents
<b>Tier III</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other physicians, nurses, CNAs</li> <li>• Other therapists (physical, occupational, speech)</li> <li>• Psychiatry staff/mental health providers</li> <li>• Incident command staff</li> <li>• Admitting staff</li> <li>• Housekeeping</li> <li>• Dietary staff</li> <li>• Laundry staff</li> <li>• Chaplain staff</li> <li>• Security staff</li> <li>• Social workers/Discharge/Case managers</li> <li>• Ward clerks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other physicians, nurses, CNAs</li> <li>• Other therapists (physical, occupational, speech)</li> <li>• Psychiatry staff/mental health providers</li> <li>• Incident command staff</li> <li>• Admitting staff</li> <li>• Housekeeping</li> <li>• Dietary staff</li> <li>• Laundry staff</li> <li>• Chaplain staff</li> <li>• Security staff</li> <li>• Social workers/Discharge/Case managers</li> <li>• Ward clerks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other therapists (physical, occupational, speech)</li> <li>• Free standing dialysis center staff with direct patient care</li> <li>• Free standing inpatient rehabilitation</li> <li>• Surveyors/inspectors of healthcare facilities</li> <li>• Incident command staff</li> <li>• Jail and prison healthcare staff</li> <li>• Non-acute care clinics or surgery center staff with direct patient contact</li> <li>• Mortuary service providers</li> </ul>	
<b>Tier IV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical records staff</li> <li>• Central Supply staff</li> <li>• Purchasing staff</li> <li>• Maintenance staff</li> <li>• Information technology staff</li> <li>• Admin Support</li> <li>• Finance staff</li> <li>• Bio-medical staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical records staff</li> <li>• Central Supply staff</li> <li>• Purchasing staff</li> <li>• Maintenance staff</li> <li>• Information technology staff</li> <li>• Admin Support</li> <li>• Finance staff</li> <li>• Bio-medical staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School nurses</li> <li>• Dentists, dental assistants and hygienists</li> </ul>	

<b>Tiers within Phase 1A</b>	<b>Referral Hospital (Health System Associated)</b>	<b>Critical Access Hospital (Health System Associated)</b>	<b>Community (Not Health System Associated)</b>	<b>Long Term Care Staff and Residents</b>
<b>Tier V</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any other staff without direct patient contact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any other staff without direct patient contact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optometrists</li> <li>Psychologists/Psychiatrists</li> <li>Chaplains</li> <li>Social workers</li> <li>Case managers</li> <li>Other public health workers</li> <li>Chiropractors</li> <li>Naturopaths</li> <li>Mental health workers</li> </ul>	

*\*If limited COVID-19 vaccine for tier IA, then referral hospitals will be allocated vaccine before other facilities.*

## Phase 1B: Older individuals, people with underlying health conditions, other congregate settings, child care workers, and employees of preschools and kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

The following table provides guidance to health care facilities and the NDDoH regarding how to prioritize limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1B.

- Phase 1A vaccination can continue once Phase 1B vaccination begins.
- Transition to Phase 1B will occur when most persons in Phase 1A have been offered vaccination and demand is declining.
- Local health care providers may transition at different times to Phase 1B.

<b>Phase 1B (in order of priority)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons age 75 and older</li> <li>Persons age 65 – 74 with two or more <a href="#">high-risk medical conditions</a>*</li> <li>Staff and persons living in other congregate settings (i.e., corrections, group homes, treatment centers, homeless shelters, etc.)</li> <li>Persons age 65 and older with one or more <a href="#">high-risk medical conditions</a>*</li> <li>Persons age 65 and older with or without <a href="#">high-risk medical conditions</a>*</li> <li>Persons with two or more <a href="#">high-risk medical conditions</a> * regardless of age</li> </ul>

<b>Phase 1B (in order of priority)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child care workers</li> <li>• Workers employed by preschools or Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teachers, nutritional services, aides, bus drivers, principals, administrative staff, custodians, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

\*High-risk medical conditions as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [Certain Medical Conditions and Risk for Severe COVID-19 Illness | CDC](#)

## Phase 1C: Essential workers and people of any age at increased risk for COVID-19

The following table provides guidance to health care facilities and the NDDoH regarding how to prioritize limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1C.

- Phase 1B vaccination can continue once Phase 1C vaccination begins.
- Transition to Phase 1C will occur when most persons in Phase 1B have been offered vaccination and demand is declining.
- **Critical Infrastructure/Essential Worker Definition:** Individuals identified by the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#) who are **unable to work from home**. The CISA advisory list identifies workers who conduct a range of operations and services that are typically essential to continued critical infrastructure viability, including staffing operations centers, maintaining and repairing critical infrastructure, operating call centers, working construction, and performing operational functions, among others. It also includes workers who support crucial supply chains and enable functions for critical infrastructure. The industries they support represent, but are not limited to, medical and healthcare, telecommunications, information technology systems, defense, food and agriculture, transportation and logistics, energy, water and wastewater, and law enforcement.

<b>Phase 1C (in order of priority)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Guard, not previously covered</li> <li>• Workers enabling access to human food (i.e., grocery workers), not including restaurant workers</li> <li>• Public safety answering points (911)</li> <li>• Manufacturing related to the development or supply of COVID-19 vaccine</li> <li>• Other healthcare/public health workers not included in phase 1A</li> <li>• Free standing clinical laundries</li> <li>• Public transit, including bus, taxi, ride-share</li> <li>• Persons age 16 – 64 with one or more <a href="#">high-risk medical conditions</a>*</li> <li>• Blood bank workers not previously vaccinated</li> </ul>

<b>Phase 1C (in order of priority)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information Technology</li><li>• All other essential workers per <a href="#">Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)</a></li></ul>



\* High-risk medical conditions as defined by the CDC: [Certain Medical Conditions and Risk for Severe COVID-19 Illness | CDC](#)

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 may consider delaying vaccination for 90 days.

The federal [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) makes recommendations for which groups should be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine. Due to limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, ethics, and science, the North Dakota COVID-19 Vaccination Ethics Committee made recommendations as to how to prioritize COVID-19 vaccine in North Dakota.