

# Community Pharmacists / Hub Hospitals Providing COVID-19 Vaccinations to Outpatient Health Workers

## PHASES 1A & 1B

### Phase 1B.1 – Initiated January 18, 2021, Updated February 23 and March 2

- **People ages 65 and over (Updated from 70 and over on February 23)**
- **Education workers, including K-12, childcare, and higher education**
- **Food manufacturing workers: (Updated on March 2)**
  - animal food manufacturing
  - grain and oilseed milling, including rice milling, soybean processing, flour milling and malt manufacturing
  - sugar and confectionery product manufacturing
  - fruit and vegetable preserving and specialty food manufacturing
  - dairy product manufacturing
  - animal slaughtering and processing, including poultry and meat processed from carcasses
  - seafood product preparation and packaging
  - bakeries and tortilla manufacturing
  - other food manufacturing, including snack food, coffee and tea, seasoning and dressing



### Phase 1A – Healthcare Workers and First Responders

*(Healthcare workers includes both health care professionals and other workers who work in health care settings (Examples: receptionists, technicians, clerks, janitorial))*

- **New 1A Categories Added on 1/18/21**
  - **Medical marijuana dispensary employees**
  - **The following DHS employees are considered health workers or first responders per ADH and the governor's office. They should be vaccinated along with the 65+ population, education workers, and remaining 1A healthcare workers.**
    - DHS Program Assistant
    - Education & Instruction Specialist
    - Family Service Worker
    - Family Service Worker Clinical Spec
    - Family Service Worker County Supervisor
    - Family Service Worker Specialist
    - Family Service Worker Supervisor
    - Family Services Assistant
    - Family Services Program Coordinator
    - DCFS Registered Nurse
    - Social Service Worker
- **Previously Listed 1A Healthcare Workers**
  - **Primary care:** (family medicine, internal medicine, midwives, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics)
  - **Occupational health**
  - **Urgent care**
  - **Any health worker performing COVID-19 testing or COVID-19 vaccinations**
  - **University health center**
  - **School nurses:** K-12 school health
  - **Dental**
  - **Pharmacy**
  - **Program for all Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) workers**
  - **Home health, Private Care / Personal Care**
  - **Hospice**
  - **Dialysis**
  - **Blood donation center workers**
  - **EMS patient transport/first responders:** paramedics, EMTs, fire and police (many have already been vaccinated by ADH, a hospital or by a pharmacy)
  - **Health professions students working in priority groups above**
  - **Specialist physician/APRN clinics** (cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology, nephrology, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, pain management, pulmonology, radiology, urology, and other specialties not already vaccinated)
  - **Advance practice nurses (APRNs)** (if not already vaccinated in the priority group above)
  - **Athletic trainers**
  - **Behavioral health**

- **Chiropractors**
- **Health professions students** (if not already vaccinated in the priority group above)
- **Lab technicians** (if not already vaccinated in the priority group above)
- **Medical assistants** (if not already vaccinated in the priority group above)
- **Mortuary service providers, coroners, and medical examiners**
- **Nurses** (if not already vaccinated in the priority group above)
- **Nutritionists**
- **Occupational therapy**
- **Optometry**
- **Organ transplant / procurement centers**
- **Physical therapy**
- **Physician assistants** (if not already vaccinated in the priority group above)
- **Podiatry**
- **Respiratory therapy**
- **Social workers** (if not already vaccinated in the priority group above)
- **Speech therapy**
- **Xray / imaging**
- **Workers needed to transport patients to health care facilities and provider appointments**
- **Any other health workers and support staff in health worksites** such as clerks, receptionists, and janitors at risk of COVID-19 infection

### FAQs:

#### **Who is not in 1A / 1B.1?**

- **Veterinarians** and their team members are not part of 1A but are part of 1B.1 if 65 or older.
- **Patients living in independent living facilities, senior care centers or retirement communities that are in facilities that are not licensed as a long-term care facility, assisted living facility or a residential care facility with the state of Arkansas** are not part of 1A but are part of 1B.1 if 65 or older.
- **Spouses, children, parents, or other relatives of eligible patients are not eligible** unless they are health workers as defined in 1A or are 65 or older, an education worker, or a food manufacturing worker as defined in 1B.1.
- **Friends of eligible patients are not eligible** unless they are health workers as defined in 1A or are 65 or older, an education worker, or a food manufacturing worker as defined in 1B.1.
- **Patients with chronic medical conditions are not eligible** unless they are health workers as defined in 1A or are 65 or older, an education worker, or a food manufacturing worker as defined in 1B.1.
- **The following groups are not in this initial phase (unless they also fall into a 1A / 1B.1 category) but will be added to Phase 1B when the vaccine supply allows it:**
  - Manufacturing workers
  - Grocery store workers
  - Public transit workers
  - US Postal Service workers
  - Essential government/community workers

#### **What do I do with unused doses in a vial, or doses that will expire within 6 hours, when I do not have patients left to vaccinate that fall into 1A/1B.1? Can I give doses to patients who do not fall under the 1A/1B.1 categories?**

- Scheduling patients and proper planning is needed to best use all doses to be given for 1A / 1B.1 patients.
- Do not waste or throw away unused doses. It is better to vaccinate in situations where appointments are cancelled, you do not have access to Group 1A/1B.1 patients, and you have doses that will expire if they are not given quickly to someone.
- If despite best planning practices, you still have extra doses because of cancelled appointments or other factors outside your control, professional judgment should be exercised for COVID-19 vaccine administered to patients outside 1A/1B.1. It is best practice to keep detailed written documentation to support these decisions when a

patient is vaccinated with doses that would otherwise expire or be wasted. Do not intentionally schedule patients who do not fall under 1A/1B.1 for vaccine clinics.

**The specifics for how many doses per vial for COVID-19 vaccines and when they expire after first use:**

- **Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine:** After dilution, all doses should be used within 6 hours from the time of dilution. Each vial contains at least 5 doses, but some vials will contain 6 or even 7 total doses depending on overfill and the needle and syringe used. It will require detailed planning to administer all 5,6, or 7 doses within the 6-hour window.
- **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:** After the first dose has been withdrawn, all doses from the vial should be given within 6 hours. The vial should be discarded after 6 hours. There are 10 doses per vial. It will require detailed planning to administer all 10 doses within the 6-hour window.