



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

December 22, 2020



Benita McLarin, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH  
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415 473 4163 T  
415 473 2326 F  
415 473 3232 TTY  
marinhhs.org/public-health

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

PLEASE JOIN DRS. MATT WILLIS (PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER) AND TYLER EVANS (DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER AND CHIEF OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE BRANCH) TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020, FROM 2:00 PM TO 3:00 PM, FOR AN UPDATE ON MARIN COUNTY'S COVID-19 VACCINE ALLOCATION OPERATIONS.

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86461698364?PWD=TOZFEUUYZlZQNGDIWVZAB0FQWHZOUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86461698364?pwd=TOZFEUUYZlZQNGDIWVZAB0FQWHZOUT09) (PASSCODE: 162523)

### **Background**

This advisory provides information for Marin County healthcare providers regarding the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued the first emergency use authorization (EUA) for use of the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) in persons aged 16 years and older for the prevention of COVID-19. On December 18, 2020, FDA issued the second EUA for use of the [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) in persons aged 18 years and older for the prevention of COVID-19.

Last week the first doses of COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Marin County. Marin County Public Health is distributing limited weekly allocations of vaccine to priority groups as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH). We are currently in Phase 1a of allocation, which prioritizes persons at highest risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 in direct health care in inpatient or long-term care settings. Due to limited vaccine supply, Marin County Public Health is sub-prioritizing by tiers and is currently vaccinating Tier 1. The supply of vaccine will determine the timing of moving through tiers. We anticipate moving through Tier 3 before the end of February, supplies allowing.

The tiers within Phase 1a are described below:

#### **Tier 1**

- Acute care hospital staff
- Staff at skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

#### **Tier 2**

- Intermediate care facilities with non-continuous nursing and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers
- Primary care clinics, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics

### Tier 3

- Specialty clinics
- Laboratory workers
- Dental / oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers

### Key considerations

- Facilities and agencies falling into Tier 1 have been engaged and are currently implementing vaccine distribution plans.
- For healthcare providers not affiliated with facilities in Tier 1, no action is required at this time to secure a space in the prioritization order.
- Plans are underway to communicate with and distribute the vaccine to those providing care in Tier 2 and Tier 3 settings, including outpatient clinics.
- Medical practices in Tier 2 and Tier 3 that are seeking to administer the vaccine to their staff, and eventually their patients, will be required to enroll in the [COVIDReadi system](#) as a COVID Vaccination Facility.

Physician practices are not required to purchase “ultra-low temperature” (ULT) freezers to store vaccine. Short- and medium-term storage alternatives are feasible, and Marin County Public Health will be making ULT storage available to those who are administering vaccines.

Marin County Public Health will provide updates to Marin County healthcare providers as the federal vaccination plan rolls forward, and as supplies become more available. For up-to-date information, visit <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccine>. Sign up for Public Health updates at <https://www.marinhhs.org/content/public-health-updates>.

Again, we understand this is a difficult time and aim to achieve coverage of the most vulnerable communities in a data-driven, thoughtful, and equitable approach. We thank you for your responsiveness and flexibility as we navigate this rapidly evolving situation together.

Please refer any questions to: [COVID19@marincounty.org](mailto:COVID19@marincounty.org).

### Key Resources

[Vaccine Distribution and Prioritization](#)

[HHS COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution](#)

[COVID-19 ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#)

[The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, 2020](#)

[California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Phase 1A COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Guidelines](#)

[Vaccination Program Enrollment](#)

[COVIDReadi Provider Enrollment: Before You Enroll](#)

[Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination Program Enrollment](#)