

February 16, 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Update for Sites

Maine is in its tenth week of vaccine distribution. As of February 15, Maine has the sixth highest percent of state residents who have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine according to the Bloomberg tracker. Thank you for all your work on this effort, especially in light of storms and winter weather.

Here are a few updates for the week.

First, in order to achieve our shared goal of using every dose of COVID-19 vaccine, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) posted [new guidance](#) called “COVID-19 Vaccine Efficient and Full Use Policy” on the COVID-19 Vaccine Communications [page](#) on the COVID-19 Provider Portal.

Second, we must continue to ensure that at-risk Maine residents are vaccinated as quickly and equitably as possible. To advance timely administration, the State moves vaccine doses from organizations that have yet to administer them to other organizations with the capacity to do so quickly. We are currently developing a weekly request system for vaccination sites that will enable more targeted distributions and are also formalizing performance metrics on the rate of vaccine use. The State will use these metrics to help vaccination sites improve their performance, as well as to inform the State’s weekly allocation amounts and to determine when to redeploy vaccines to different sites.

Third, we have posted an [application](#) for consortia of organizations that are interested in creating community collaborative efforts to distribute at least 1,000 vaccines per week by pooling resources and populations to increase vaccine throughput, while also improving the equitable distribution of vaccines. Approval will result in receipt of COVID-19 vaccine from the State’s distribution (it is not an application for funding). Such community collaboratives must include at least one organization that has an existing Maine CDC Maine Immunization Program (MIP) provider agreement for COVID-19 vaccines. That application is posted on the COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment [page](#).

Lastly, Maine is still in the phase of vaccinating people ages 70 and older: it has not yet started other eligibility groups such as people ages 65 to 69. In light of concerns about vaccination of individuals not eligible under Maine’s plan, the Office of the Attorney General has issued a memorandum on enforcement of it. It can be found [here](#).