

Phase 1B Vaccinations Announced

As COVID-19 vaccinations are underway for **Phase 1A**, Gov. Mike DeWine announced this week that Phase 1B distribution includes Ohioans age 65 and older; those living with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset medical disorders; and adults working in Ohio schools. He said these groups were chosen with two goals: to save lives and for schools to be fully open by March 1. The logistics and timeframe for Phase 1B are still developing.

Ohioans age 65+ make up 86.8% of COVID-19 deaths in the state.

About 180 hospitals and local health departments received the first shipments of the Moderna vaccine this week. **Physicians who are not employed by a hospital may contact their local health department** to ask about coordinating vaccination for themselves and eligible staff when available. According to the [vaccination dashboard](#) 11,700 have received their first shot as of this morning.

There are now over **1,100 providers enrolled in the vaccination program**, including 217 hospitals, 357 pharmacies, and 114 FQHCs among others. As vaccines continue to come to Ohio, Cardinal Health will provide same-day delivery services. Once the vaccine is widely available, this partnership will allow Ohio to ship the vaccine to approximately 350 locations across the state.

COVID-19 Update:

Ohio Reaches Grim Milestone

On Saturday, **Ohio surpassed 8,000 confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths.** There was some good news though this week: Ohio avoided a Thanksgiving surge. At a briefing on Monday, Gov. Mike DeWine said data shows Ohioans greatly reduced their travel and contacts with others over Thanksgiving.

There are now [two new maps](#) from the Ohio Department of Health to track the spread. One measures cases per capita over time. The time-lapse map is based on the list of high incidence counties and indicates the levels of spread from week to week. The other shows each Hospital Preparedness Region and what percent of the overall ICU patient population are COVID patients. At the beginning of August, it was about 12% statewide, or 1 in 8 patients in the ICU was a COVID patient. Currently, we are at 31%.

Both maps will be updated weekly on Thursdays at coronavirus.ohio.gov.

THANKSGIVING MOBILITY & UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Ohio is not experiencing a drastic surge in cases related to Thanksgiving gatherings which is attributable to the fact that Ohioans greatly reduced their contacts and travel over the holiday. According to anonymized data published in the *New York Times*, there was a 60 to 70 percent reduction in contacts over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"If we can get through Christmas and New Year's without a significant surge, we will be much better positioned to start 2021 against this virus," said Governor DeWine. "It's critical that we keep up the work we started over Thanksgiving for the next several weeks to prevent another surge in January."

Ohio Department of Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff stressed the need for citizens to continue following the [Stay Safe Ohio Protocol](#) to help prevent Ohio hospitals from becoming overwhelmed.

"Up to and through Thanksgiving, Ohioans took important steps to avoid letting COVID-19 overwhelm our hospitals, but in spite of this, our hospitals remain extremely busy," said Dr. Vanderhoff. "Adding a post-holiday spike would create a terrible situation, so we can't let ourselves be lulled into a sense of complacency as we move into the next two-week period, the biggest holiday season on our calendar."

VACCINATION DASHBOARD

Governor DeWine announced that Ohio will launch a new COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard in the coming days at coronavirus.ohio.gov. The dashboard will list the number of people vaccinated in Ohio and will be sortable by demographic and by county.

Pharmacy Board Email Scam

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy has been alerted to a [phishing email scheme](#) sent to licensees where the **sender is claiming to represent the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy**. They have also created a website that mimics the Board's site as an additional step to deceive licensees.

If you receive an email, be sure to **delete it and do not click on the links**. If you have opened the email, followed the link, and submitted any sensitive information, you are strongly advised to look into setting up credit/fraud alerts and/or a credit freeze. The Board will continue to monitor this situation.