

# COVID-19 Vaccine Program Guidance for Vaccine Providers working with Ohio employers/organizations

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), by providing information about COVID-19 vaccination and establishing supportive policies and practices, employers can help increase vaccine uptake among workers. Sharing clear, complete, and accurate messages promotes confidence in the decision to get vaccinated. Engaging employees in plans helps reduce potential barriers to vaccination.

Strong confidence in the vaccines within Ohio's workplaces will lead to more people getting vaccinated, which will lead to fewer COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. This ultimately will help Ohio's economy by reducing absences due to illness. The State of Ohio does not mandate vaccination.

As vaccine supplies increase, making vaccine easily available and convenient to employers and organizations and their employees or members is a priority. ODH has issued guidance to businesses and organizations, including nonprofits, interested in coordinating vaccinations for their employees or members recommending that they contact enrolled vaccine providers in their community to discuss partnership options and begin planning.

**Beginning April 12, 2021, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will allow enrolled providers to vaccinate their own employees and to use vaccine to support employer or organization vaccine programs.** This includes, for example, partnering with businesses or organizations to conduct on-site vaccination clinics, making vaccination convenient and easy for employees or members.

As supplies may be limited, vaccine priority should be given to those employees who are at greatest risk for exposure to COVID-19 due to their job duties, including employees who must regularly interact in person with customers and members of the public. Vaccine providers that have been providing vaccine to the public are encouraged to expand their reach to include businesses and organizations, while still making vaccine available to the public and prioritizing equity considerations in the distribution of vaccine.

A list of enrolled vaccine providers available to partner with businesses and organizations will be available soon and published on the ODH website. Until the list is available, businesses or organizations interested in a vaccination event have been encouraged to contact their local health department, who can help coordinate a vaccine provider.

## **Benefits of provider and business/organization partnerships**

A coordinated effort to vaccinate employees benefits employers and employees.

- **Potential benefits for employers:**
  - Keep the workforce healthy.
  - Reduce absences due to illness.
  - Improve productivity.
  - Improve morale.

- **Potential benefits for employees:**
  - Prevent COVID-19 illness.
  - Reduce absences and doctor visits due to illness.
  - Convenience.
  - Improve morale.

## **Vaccination options for employees**

- **On-site at the workplace:**
  - Occupational health clinics that are enrolled as Ohio vaccine providers.
  - Employer-run temporary vaccination clinics for employees (e.g., a grocery chain with a pharmacy operation that can vaccinate grocery employees).
  - Mobile/temporary vaccination clinics brought to the workplace by enrolled vaccine providers (e.g., hospital, pharmacy, or local health department partner).
- **Off-site in the community:**
  - Mobile/temporary vaccination clinics set up at community locations including hospital, pharmacy, or local health department partners (closed or open to the public).
  - Pharmacies enrolled in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program.
  - Hospitals and healthcare provider offices.
  - Federally qualified health centers.

## **Vaccination On-Site at the Workplace – Special Considerations**

- The planning process for hosting a workplace COVID-19 vaccination program should include input from management, human resources, employees, and labor representatives, if present.
- Employers may want to engage a community vaccination provider/vendor. These providers typically deliver work-site flu vaccination services and are expanding to provide COVID-19 vaccination. They have trained nursing staff available in all jurisdictions, can bill insurance for administration fees, and can report vaccine administration data to immunization registries.
- Vaccination providers must prepare to monitor for and manage [potential anaphylaxis after vaccination](#).
- Workplace vaccination clinics must offer vaccination at no charge and during work hours.
- Provide easy access to vaccination for all people working at the workplace, regardless of their status as a contractor or temporary employee.
- The [Pfizer vaccine](#) is authorized for ages 16 and older, and the [Moderna vaccine](#) and the [Johnson & Johnson \(Janssen\) vaccine](#) are authorized for ages 18 and older. All Ohioans age 16 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine. Children ages 16 and 17 who are not emancipated must have parental or legal guardian consent for any vaccine. A parent or legal guardian generally should accompany the minor to receive the vaccine, unless the administration of the vaccine occurs in a physician's office, school-based or school-associated clinic setting or similar setting.
- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are two-dose products. The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine is due 21 days after the first dose. The second dose of the Moderna vaccine is due 28 days after the first dose. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single-dose product.
- See the National Institute of Health's [Key Elements of a Model Workplace Safety and Health COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#).

*Updated April 8, 2021.*

**If you have any questions, please call the ODH COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email. Visit the ODH [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Information Training page](#) for additional information and resources.**