



COVID-19

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# How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

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When the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorizes or approves a COVID-19 vaccine, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will quickly hold a public meeting to review all available data about that vaccine (sign up to receive email updates whenever [ACIP's Meeting Information](#) is updated). Before making recommendations, ACIP reviews all available clinical trial information, including descriptions of:

- Who is receiving each vaccine (age, race, ethnicity, [underlying medical conditions](#))
- How different groups respond to the vaccine
- Side effects of each vaccine

From these data, ACIP will then vote on whether to recommend the vaccine. ACIP also votes on recommendations for [who should be offered COVID-19 vaccine first when supplies are limited](#).

## COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations

- On Dec. 1, 2020, ACIP [recommended](#) that health care personnel and long-term care facility residents be offered COVID-19 vaccination first (Phase 1a).
- On Dec. 11, 2020, the FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) [↗](#) in persons aged 16 years and older and on Dec. 13, 2020, [ACIP issued recommendations for the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) for the prevention of COVID-19.
- On Dec. 18, 2020, the FDA issued an [EUA for the use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) [↗](#) for use in individuals 18 years of age and older and on Dec. 20, 2020, [ACIP issued recommendations for the use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#) for the prevention of COVID-19.
- On Dec. 20, 2020, ACIP updated interim vaccine allocation [recommendations](#). In Phase 1b, COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to people aged 75 years and older and non-health care frontline essential workers, and in Phase 1c, to people aged 65–74 years, people aged 16–64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not included in Phase 1b.
- On Feb 27, 2021, the FDA issued an [EUA for the use of Johnson & Johnson's](#)

Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine [↗](#) in persons aged 18 years and older and on Mar. 2, 2020, ACIP issued recommendations for the use of the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19.

Learn more about [ACIP and CDC recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccines](#).



**ACIP Resources:** Recommendation process, meeting agendas, minutes, live meetings, and presentation slides

## Ethical principles



ACIP identified four ethical principles to guide their decision-making process when supply is limited:

- **Maximize benefits and minimize harms** — Respect and care for people using the best available data to promote public health and minimize death and severe illness.
- **Mitigate health inequities** — Reduce health disparities in the burden of COVID-19 disease and death, and make sure everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible.
- **Promote justice** — Treat affected groups, populations, and communities fairly. Remove unfair, unjust, and avoidable barriers to COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Promote transparency** — Make a decision that is clear, understandable, and open for review. Allow and seek public participation in the creation and review of the decision processes.

Learn more about [ACIP's Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine](#).

## Other frameworks

Input from the public and the following professional groups is informing ACIP's discussions on who should receive COVID-19 vaccines when supply is limited:

- **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health:** [Interim Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation and Distribution in the United States](#) [↗](#)
- **The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine:** [Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine](#) [↗](#)
- **World Health Organization (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE):** [WHO SAGE Values Framework for the Allocation and Prioritization of COVID-19 Vaccination](#)  [337 KB, 14 pages] [↗](#)
- **WHO SAGE:** [WHO SAGE Roadmap for Prioritizing Uses of COVID-19 Vaccines in the Context of Limited Supply](#)  [394 KB, 32 pages] [↗](#)

## ACIP's Role

Learn about CDC's vaccine recommendation process

### More Information

[Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#)

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[COVID-19 ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#)

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[Role of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in CDC's Vaccine Recommendations](#)

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[When Vaccine is Limited, Who Gets Vaccinated First](#)

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and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral  
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