

## COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

**November 25, 2020**

In the United States, there is not yet an authorized or approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The federal government has been working since the pandemic started to make one or more COVID-19 vaccines available as soon as possible. Likely, mid-December is when the first vaccine will gain approval.

In recent weeks, there has been quite a bit about several vaccines in the media regarding their successful trials. Pfizer and Moderna have both issued press releases indicating strong vaccine effectiveness among participants in their Phase 3 clinical trials.

The next step is for the vaccines to gain Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration. Pfizer has applied for an EUA and a review is scheduled with the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) for December 10. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will likely schedule a meeting the following day to review the EUA and determine vaccine recommendations. Once the ACIP recommendations are reviewed, approved, and signed by the CDC Director then the vaccines can be given to the public. Moderna has not submitted an EUA at this time.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are each expected to be a 2-dose series, with the second vaccine needed 21 to 28 days after administration of the first dose.

### Kansas News

In Kansas, public health has been working on preparing and strategizing for distribution of the vaccine for several months. The [Vaccine Plan](#) can be viewed online.

Kansas does not know how many doses will be received for the state – the amount fluctuates routinely. It is expected that Kansas will receive a small supply after the initial EUA is approved, followed by larger shipments as the vaccine supply increases. The initial targets of the vaccine will be healthcare workers, followed by other essential workers, those 65 years of age and older, those at risk for developing complications of COVID-19, and the general population.

Kansas is planning for the first vaccines to be delivered in mid-December. Vaccine will be delivered to pre-positioned locations equipped for ultra cold storage throughout Kansas. Due to security reasons, KDHE will not disclose the locations of these facilities. From these locations, vaccine will be distributed broadly to provide vaccine coverage to healthcare workers. As vaccine supplies increase, additional populations will be targeted.

## Communication

- KDHE will begin disseminating these weekly updates on vaccine developments via KS-HAN and to partners every Wednesday.
- Other communications are in development and will be communicated as available.

## Resources

- CDC - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html)