

## Contra Costa County Ethical Framework for Vaccine Allocation

### Phase 1A & Phase 1B, Tier 1

1/19/2021

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### *Vaccine Allocation within Phase 1A & Phase 1B, Tier 1*

Based on recommendations from the California Department of Public Health and current vaccine supply, the Committee supports expanding vaccine access to all populations in Phase 1A and individuals 65 years and older, as defined in Phase 1B Tier 1.

Vaccine administration within this population is intended to mitigate occupational exposure for those working in the human health care infrastructure, and to protect those at highest risk of COVID-19 related death or serious illness. At this time, Contra Costa is no longer including veterinarians and veterinarian staff in Phase 1A.

Eligible groups include:

##### Phase 1A, Tier 1

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospital staff
- Staff and residents of skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis center staff

##### Phase 1A, Tier 2

- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services staff
- Community health workers, i.e. Promotoras, African American Health Conductors, CORE Team, SPIRIT workers, homeless outreach workers, etc.
- Public health field staff
- Primary Care clinic staff, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics



### Phase 1A, Tier 3

Other settings and health care workers, including

- Specialty clinics
- Laboratory workers
- Dental and other oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers

### Phase 1B, Tier 1

- Individuals age 65 and older

Doses may be promptly offered to people in lower priority groups when:

- Demand subsidies in the current groups
- Doses are about to expire according to labeling instructions
- Doses that have been thawed and would otherwise go to waste

Vaccine will be distributed to this priority population through multiple distribution models including mass vaccination clinics, mobile strike teams, and direct allocation to eligible providers. The infrastructure developed to operationalize distribution within these tiers will continue to be used and expanded as Contra Costa moves through the phased allocation process.

Contra Costa will work within a stakeholder process to determine how to operationalize distribution of the vaccine most efficiently to individuals within the current allocation tiers. The goal is to ensure that individuals who are at risk of exposure within these categories have easy access to the vaccine. To accomplish this Contra Costa commits to engaging representatives within each group during initial planning phases to understand needs, barriers to access, addressing fears and concerns regarding the efficacy and safety of the vaccine and to assist with vaccination outreach efforts.

## BACKGROUND

### *Committee Overview*

As Contra Costa County prepared to receive initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, Contra Costa Health Services convened an Ethical and Equitable Allocations Committee to ensure a fair, transparent, and evidence-based approach to access during the early stages of availability. Committee participants were chosen to include stakeholders from across the county system with various backgrounds and interest, and to represent those groups that have been most impacted by the pandemic. The Committee understands the need for flexibility as evidence emerges and medical realities change throughout the phased distribution of COVID-19 vaccine. The recommendations from this Committee are based on the



best available and most up to date scientific information along with data trends specific for our unique community. As our county moves through the phases of vaccine allocation, the Committee make-up will change to match the interests and voices of those within each group.

### *Ethical Framework*

Contra Costa County maintains that all persons are worthy of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of a persons' payer status, socioeconomic status, age, race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or disability

The Committee endorses the guidelines outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization practices (ACIP) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The ethical framework which has guided these recommendations are grounded in the fundamental commitment that the response to the current pandemic will protect and promote the public's health and its socioeconomic well-being in the short and long term. To honor this commitment, the vaccine allocation response must promote the common good by balancing three main ethical objectives.

1. To protect the population's health by maximizing benefit in the form of reducing mortality and serious morbidity
2. Respect individuals and groups at highest risk of health disparities
3. Protect against systemic inequality by promoting equity in access

The Committee is committed to ensuring that the most impacted areas of our community receive vaccine, while working within the state and federal framework.

### *Conclusion*

Despite vaccines being distributed, the Committee asks our community to continue to adhere to hand washing, social distancing, masking, and other safe practices to decrease disease transmission. Contra Costa County is committed to the health and well-being of all persons and the hope is that this allocation model will honor that commitment.