



December 14, 2020

Dear Colleague:

On December 11, 2020, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel recommended Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. It is expected the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine will be given a similar EUA in the coming days. This is good news as we work to end the COVID-19 pandemic in our state.

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) will follow the guidance and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for prioritizing distribution of COVID-19 vaccine. Initial vaccine supply will be very limited. Therefore, based on the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19, ACIP has recommended that health care workers and residents and staff of long-term care facilities be the highest priority groups to receive vaccine.

As a licensed health care provider in Georgia, you are in the first group eligible for vaccination.

If you and your practice are enrolled as a COVID-19 vaccine administration site, you may be vaccinated from the vaccine supply being shipped to you directly. If you or your practice are not enrolled as a vaccine provider, there are several ways for you to get vaccinated:

1. Health care workers affiliated with a health care system (hospital, clinic or private practice) or pharmacy should contact their respective facilities about the process for vaccinating eligible employees.
2. Health care workers with access to a community hospital or pharmacy, can seek vaccination there.
3. Health care workers without access to these facilities – including those who have started the enrollment process to become a COVID-19 vaccine administration site but have not yet been approved – should contact their district health director (<https://dph.georgia.gov/media/60761/download>) for vaccination.

DPH is working to identify health care personnel in need of vaccination as the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available. We ask for your patience and cooperation during the initial stages of this monumental vaccination rollout.

This is an exciting development in the fight against COVID-19, and we look forward to a continued partnership in protecting the health of all Georgians. Thank you for all you are doing to care for Georgians during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner and State Health Officer