




District of Columbia
Interagency Council on Homelessness



ERSO Committee
January 27, 2021

Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Call to Order
- II. Updates
 - a. COVID-19 Peer Educator Program
 - b. Vaccine Update
- III. Discussion:
 - a. Inauguration Debrief
 - b. Shelter Program Rules Feedback
 - ✓ Key Context/Process/Next Steps
 - ✓ Areas Reviewed
 - ✓ Today's Focus
- IV. Updates & Announcements
 - a. Co-Chair
 - b. Point-in-Time
- V.  Adjournment



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COVID-19 Peer Educator Program



- ❖ The COVID-19 Peer Educator Program is up and running
- ❖ We have conducted interviews at Pat Handy, Harriet Tubman, Adam's Place, and New York Avenue. We're holding interviews at 801 East on Thursday.
- ❖ So far we have selected 21 individuals to participate in the program. We are very pleased with the turnout and interest in the program
- ❖ The training will start next week on February 3 at the Holiday Inn on Rhode Island Ave NW

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Vaccine Basics

- Two COVID-19 vaccines have received emergency use authorization from the FDA
 - Pfizer-BioNTech available for 16+
 - Moderna available for 18+
- COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all vaccines.
- Vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19
 - They CANNOT give someone COVID-19
 - They will NOT cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests
 - Experts believe the vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19
- These vaccines appear to be highly effective at preventing serious symptoms of COVID-19.
 - You need to receive **TWO** doses, 24-32 days apart.
- The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC recommendations offers the best protection from Covid 19.

Vaccine Distribution Update

Multi-Phase Vaccine Distribution

- **Phase 1A:** Frontline and Health Care Workers
- **Phase 1B:** Essential and At-risk Populations
 - *Emergency shelter and other identified programs*
- **Phase 1C:** Other Essential Workers Outside of Sub-group Phase 1B
- **Additional Information:**
coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine

UPDATED PHASE 1 COVID-19 VACCINE PRIORITIZATION GUIDANCE
UPDATED: 12/28/2020

PHASE 1A

DEFINITION

- Paid and unpaid people serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, and
- District of Columbia residents within Long-Term Care settings.

ESTIMATED POPULATION

- 115,000 individuals

POPULATION GROUPS (NOT COMPLETELY INCLUSIVE)

- Workforce in acute care hospitals, specialty care hospitals, long-term care facilities, intermediate care facilities, Emergency Medical Services, Front-Line Public Health, Home Health Aides, Outpatient settings, Dental settings, and Pharmacy settings; and
- District of Columbia residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, and longer-term psychiatry inpatients.

TIMELINE

- Week of Dec 14th: Access to Acute Care and Specialty Care Hospital Network, DC Fire & EMS, and Front-Line Public Health
- Week of Dec 21st: Launch of Long-Term Care Partnership and access to Intermediate Care workforce, Home Health Aides, Urgent Care workforce, FQHC workforce, and pharmacy workforce
- Week of Dec 28th: Access to all other healthcare workers in Phase 1a including those in outpatient and ancillary care settings

PHASE 1B

DEFINITION

- District workers who are in sectors essential to the functioning of society and are at substantially higher risk of contracting COVID-19, and
- District of Columbia residents who are 75 years and older

ESTIMATED POPULATION

- 110,000 individuals

POPULATION GROUPS (NOT COMPLETELY INCLUSIVE)

- Law enforcement, public safety, school teachers and staff, childcare providers, grocery store workers, community outreach workers, correction workers, public transit workers, manufacturing, U.S. Postal Service workers, and those in agriculture; and
- District of Columbia residents who are 75 years and older and District of Columbia residents in Intermediate Care Facilities, Group Homes, or other higher risk congregate settings.

TIMELINE

- This phase will begin once the majority of Phase 1a has been vaccinated and/or demand decreases.

#GetVaccinatedDC

DC HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Vaccine Distribution Update

- DHS working with Unity Healthcare to rollout vaccinations in congregate programs and hotels
 - Unity will provide medical direction and clinics at each shelter
 - Subject to vaccine availability and DC Health requirements
 - DHS will support as necessary
- Intent is to begin vaccination the week of 2/1 at PEP-V locations followed by the Low Barrier Shelter system
- The vaccine will NOT be mandatory for clients or staff at this time
- Communication is crucial
- ***Any client or staff eligible to receive the vaccine is encouraged to do so through <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccinatedc>.***

Vaccine Distribution – Communication

Key Messaging

- Helpful tool in stopping the pandemic
- Protect yourself and others
- It's safe, effective & free

Engagement & Outreach Materials

- How The Vaccine Works Information Flyer
- Client-focused Flyers, Posters and Social Media

HOW DOES THE COVID-19 VACCINE WORK?

It is important to know that scientists had a head start on these vaccines. For years, scientists at the National Institutes of Health and the University of Pennsylvania have been working to create this type of vaccine, following outbreaks of other coronaviruses like SARS and MERS. Here's how the COVID-19 vaccine works:

Scientists isolated one part of the virus – the spike – that they could use to teach our bodies what to look out for.

The Spike

When we receive the vaccine, our bodies do as they're instructed and build examples of that spike.

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

The vaccine is basically instructions for our bodies to make an example of that spike (NOT an actual coronavirus – just the spike). You might hear these instructions referred to as "mRNA."

Without the vaccine, when the coronavirus enters your body, your immune system does not recognize quick enough that it is bad, and that gives the virus plenty of time to spread through your system and make you sick. Without the vaccine, your immune system is left desperately trying to play catch up as the virus spreads through your body.

With the vaccine, your body already knows to be on the lookout for that spike. If you are vaccinated, when the coronavirus enters your system, your body immediately gets to work destroying it.

The vaccine does NOT involve injecting you with COVID-19 and it does NOT change your DNA or your genetic code.

PROTECT YOURSELF.

Get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine is an important tool for reducing your risk of infection and stopping the pandemic.

IT'S SAFE, EFFECTIVE AND FREE!

For more information on how District residents experiencing homelessness can receive the COVID-19 vaccine, visit dhs.dc.gov/vacinatedc.gov

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Inauguration Debrief



- ❖ Shelter providers: Did you feel prepared for any potential operational challenges due to the Inauguration?
 - If yes, what was most helpful?
 - If no, what would you recommend in the future?
- ❖ What messaging was most helpful, is there additional messaging that would have be beneficial?
- ❖ Outreach providers: Did you feel you were able to share quality messaging and help safety plan with your clients?
 - If yes, what was most helpful?
- ❖ If not for COVID/hypothermia season would additional changes need to be made?
 - Eg. Something happens in the summer and the shelters aren't already open 24/7?

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Rethinking Program Rules



- ❖ In late 2019 and early 2020, in anticipation of the new shelter and renovated shelters, the ERSO committee began working on obtaining feedback on program rules.
- ❖ With the goal of providing DHS with feedback so they would have ample time to develop updated program rules, get feedback on drafts, and train providers before we move into any new site.

Areas for Feedback



- ❖ Discussed:
 - Prioritization for temporary beds, due to limited numbers
 - Assigning beds in low barrier shelters
 - Rights and Responsibilities for Temporary Beds
 - Kitchen/food rules (especially in the work bed dorms)
 - Expectations related to cleaning up after yourself in shared areas (especially in the kitchenette or family-style bathroom)
 - Medication management/distribution
 - Mixed gender spaces
 - Mail management
 - Access to different parts of the building
- ❖ Remaining:
 - Storage Policies
 - Hygiene Challenges

Today's Focus



❖ Hygiene issues

- What happens when someone refuses to shower or refuses treatment for lice or other bugs?
 - ✓ Many conversations on this topic have taken place with the CEWG, Shelter Townhalls, and Shelter Conditions.
 - ✓ What is working well? What are the challenges we are still facing?

❖ Storage policies

- Many conversations around creative solutions, this conversation will be focused specifically on program rules.
- What is currently working well with storage?
- How many items can people have with them? As much as space with allow? A specific number? What's appropriate?
- Can people in the low barrier shelter leave things over night in foot lockers? What happens if they don't return the next night?

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