Dental Hygienists Confirmed in Phase 1B of COVID Vaccine Distribution Plan

This afternoon, Gov. Jared Polis conducted a press conference with a presentation announcing the state’s COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan for Providers.

Dental Hygienists have been placed in Phase 1B, following the highest risk healthcare workers and individuals who have direct contact with COVID-19 patients for 15-minutes or more over a 24-hour period. This also includes long-term care facility staff and residents. Dental Hygienists who provide direct access care in long-term care facilities, but are not contracted employees, will remain in Phase 1B for vaccine distribution.

Phase 1B includes healthcare workers with less direct contact with COVID-19 patients and specifically dental professionals.

Phase 1 will take place this winter, however details are still to come on the logistics of Phase 1B distribution.

On Dec. 4 the state placed its first order for 46,800 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and tomorrow it will place an order for 95,600 doses of the Moderna vaccine. The first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine is expected in Colorado next week. Phase 1
distribution of the vaccine is planned to conclude by the end of February 2021, however, it is dependent on the federal supply chain.

Vaccine distribution centers must have the storage capability where the Pfizer vaccine will be stored at ultra low temperatures before going to providers around the state. Nearly every county in the state has a designated site(s) where the vaccine will be administered. Once other vaccines are available, CDPHE and the COVID Vaccine Strategy team anticipate more flexibility for vaccine allocations and administration.

CODHA attended a distribution plan stakeholder meeting that took place this evening to represent its members. CODHA has continued to be in conversations with the Governor’s office and CDPHE throughout the COVID-19 health crisis. We will continue to update you with additional information as it becomes available.

If you have questions about your eligibility, contact 877-462-2911 or visit covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine.