



STATE OF OREGON
Office of the Governor
KATE BROWN

Summary January 15, 2021 Press Conference on Vaccines

Attending: Governor Brown, Patrick Allen, Adjutant General Michael Stencel, Trent Green, COO Legacy Health

Governor Kate Brown held a press conference today to update Oregonians on the status of COVID-19 vaccinations in Oregon. The Governor was joined by Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Director Patrick Allen, Adjutant General Michael Stencel, and Legacy Health Chief Operating Officer Trent Green. During the press conference the Governor shared OHA has reached the goal of 12,000 vaccinations per day and demanded answers from the federal government on news that vaccine reserves do not exist. Even with this disappointing news, Director Allen was able to lay out a plan for the next steps with group 1a, educators and school employers and seniors, and the roll out of a new interactive website for Oregonians: covidvaccine.oregon.gov and [Vacunacovid.oregon.gov](https://vacunacovid.oregon.gov) (spanish).

THE RESET

Like most states across the nation, Oregon experienced challenges at the beginning of the vaccine rollout. Today, OHA has acknowledged lessons learned in the early days of the vaccination program, namely it should have recognized that Oregon's well-tested and high-performing system for distributing flu vaccines would not translate to the demands of distributing the COVID-19 vaccines.

- **Oregon should have anticipated the unique challenges these new vaccines posed.** For example, we needed a better hub system to distribute the new vaccines, with their ultra-cold storage requirements and time-limited handling demands.
- **Oregon should have anticipated the challenges we'd face in vaccinating the wide range of groups in Phase 1A.** We needed to recognize we'd have to work with many sites that had little experience organizing vaccinations.
- **Oregon needed to provide better training to partners.** Partners needed to know more about what to expect when vaccines arrived, so they could more quickly organize their roll-outs. They needed to better understand how to log their data, so Oregon's numbers weren't artificially depressed by slow data entry and we could make more informed allocation decisions.

The changes announced last week to speed up the pace of Oregon's COVID-19 vaccinations efforts has paid off, especially our decisions to:

- Simplify the prioritization rules for Phase 1A groups.
- Streamline the supply allocation process to get more doses in hands of vaccinators at sites with the capacity to serve large numbers of people each day.

As a result, the number of doses administered per day over the past week more than doubled and OHA met Governor Brown’s goal to deliver 12,000 doses per day. For example:

- On Monday January 4th, when the Governor announced her target, Oregon vaccination sites administered 5,142 doses.
- On Friday January 8th, after Oregon simplified the prioritization process for people in Phase 1A and delivered more doses to high-throughput locations, such as Salem Health’s clinic at the state fairgrounds, sites administered a total of 12,283 doses.
- On Tuesday January 12th, Oregon vaccination sites administered 12,171 doses.
- On Wednesday January 13th, Oregon vaccination sites administered 13,100 doses.

MOVING FORWARD

Between now and January 25th, OHA will continue to:

- **Improve data reporting with ongoing support to local vaccination sites**, so Oregon’s data more accurately reflects actual vaccine administration on the ground, and we have more reliable information we can use to make allocation decisions.
- **Encourage sites to quickly draw down their remaining inventory of doses on hand.** OHA knows sites are catching up on their data. We also know many doses have the name of a health care worker, a first responder or another worker in a Phase 1A group on them, but haven’t been administered yet due to a range of logistical complexities.
 - We need sites to complete these vaccinations to the full extent possible, to lessen the chance of bottlenecks before we move on.
- **Prioritize Oregon’s allocations of vaccine doses to high-volume, high-throughput sites:** Salem Health’s vaccine clinic at the state fairgrounds demonstrated how efficiently high-capacity vaccination clinics can immunize large numbers of people. In coming weeks, OHA is coordinating with hospitals and local public health partners to drive doses to similar large-scale vaccination clinics throughout the state.
- **Expand vaccinations to people at highest-risk in Phase 1A:** As OHA announced last week, we will leverage our partnerships through the federal pharmacy program to bring mobile vaccination clinics to homes serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, adult foster homes, behavioral health programs and other group settings that serve vulnerable people.

These steps will establish a solid foundation that will enable Oregon to move into the next phase: vaccinating educators, as early as January 25th – *if federal supplies come through.*

VACCINES BY THE NUMBERS *(as of January 15, 2021)*

- **Daily:** Today, Oregon added a total of 26,936 additional COVID-19 vaccinations to the state's vaccine registry.
 - Of that total, 10,618 first and second doses were reported yesterday – and that total will grow as additional vaccinations that occurred on January 14th are reported to the registry.
- **As of today:** Oregon has vaccinated close to 40 percent of the Phase 1A population.
- **Total:** Oregon vaccination sites have administered a total of 173,073 first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines.
- **National context:** Based on today's report, Oregon ranks:
 - Tied for 24th in the nation in vaccines distributed at 39 percent. The national average is 36 percent. Oregon is ahead of all of our surrounding neighbors in Washington, California, Idaho and Nevada.
 - Oregon is 30th in the nation in the percent of our population vaccinated at 2.8 percent. Based on this metric, we're also ahead of all our surrounding neighbors in Washington, California, Idaho and Nevada.
- **By January 25th educators will become eligible and by Feb 8th seniors become eligible for vaccinations.** By this time, Oregon expects to have vaccinated approximately 56 percent of the people in Phase 1A groups – or 225,000 health care workers, first responders and staff and residents in long-term care facilities – if vaccinations continue at our current rate.
- **By January 30th:** Oregon expects to have vaccinated approximately 300,000 people in Phase 1A groups, or three-quarters of people eligible.

VACCINATIONS IN THE UPCOMING WEEKS

Based on yesterday's disappointing news from the Federal Government Oregon has far more educators and seniors than we have doses per week. We know that many seniors have been frustrated in other states that have expanded vaccinations to older adults. Here's how we plan to move forward:

- **Phase 1A** will continue to get a vaccination, as we open vaccinations to educators and seniors.
- **Educators will begin receiving vaccinations starting January 25th**
 - We hope to vaccinate most educators within 2 weeks
- **Oregon seniors will receive vaccines beginning Feb 8** consistent with our principles of prioritizing people who are hardest-hit and most at risk, it will begin with Oregonians who are 80 or older. It's estimated this will take 12 weeks to vaccinate this population.

Vaccinating these populations depends on getting enough doses from the federal government. Oregon must have the supplies we've been promised. OHA continues to prioritize vaccine allocations to high throughput vaccination sites.

NEW TOOLS FOR OREGONIANS

Today the Oregon Health Authorities vaccine website is live covidvaccine.oregon.gov and [Vacunacovid.oregon.gov](https://vacunacovid.oregon.gov) (spanish)

This new personalized, interactive guide that tells you:

- **If you're eligible to get a vaccine**, based on your age and occupation.
- **Where you can get a vaccine**, based on your local county resources.
- **Where you can get the facts about vaccines** and answers to your vaccination questions.

Next week, Oregonians will also be able to call and talk to someone who can answer their questions about eligibility and get directed to local resources. This call center will be available in the coming days, before we expand vaccination eligibility to teachers.