

Prioritization: Promising practices for educating others about the importance of disability prioritizing in state vaccination plans

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Speakers

- **Andy Imparato**, Executive Director, Disability Rights California
- **Raivo Murnieks**, Chief Strategy Officer, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- **Laura Sorg**, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- **Kristin Ahrens**, Deputy Secretary PA Department of Human Services
- **Jolene Sharp** (she/her/hers), Chief Public Information Officer, Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities
- **Mya W. Lewis**, I/DD & TBI Section Chief Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and, Substance Abuse Service, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Moderator

- **Cassandra Thompson** (she/her/hers), Director, Preparedness and Disability Integration, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy

Background – Ohio's Developmental Disabilities System

- 97,500 People Actively Served
- 57,700 Adults 18 and Older
- 38,500 Adults with a Waiver or Living in an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) or Developmental Center
- State Supervised by Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD)
- County Administered - 88 Counties - County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (CBDD)

Phase 1A Focus and Coordination

- Phase 1A – Included Congregate Settings for People with Developmental Disabilities and their Staff
- Prioritized by Governor Mike DeWine – Saving Lives, Reducing Hospitalizations, and Equity
- DODD Director Jeff Davis Coordinated with Ohio's Vaccine Preparedness Office - November
- DODD Data Sharing and Planning with CBDD for Local Coordinated Vaccine Strategy – December
- Local Health Departments (LHDs) Received Vaccine Allocation from State
- LHDs Coordinated with CBDD and Settings

Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy

Phase 1A Data Planning & Coordination

17,500 People with Developmental Disabilities - Phase 1A

1,000+ State Licensed Settings (425 ICFs and 600+ Waiver Homes)

- 7,650+ Eligible People
- 250 Settings Participated in Federal Pharmacy Program
- Centralized State Licensed Provider Data System – Shared with CBDD

3,800+ Non-Licensed Settings (2+ Individuals)

- 9,850+ Eligible People
 - County Level Data Identified via Address Matching at State Level
 - Verified by CBDD – Including Leads for each Setting to Coordinate with LHDs
- Vaccine for Staff Allocated at a 3:1 Ratio
 - Final Lists Utilized for Allocation Planning and Shared with CBDD & LHDs for Local Coordination

Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy

Education and Outreach

Webinars and Town Hall Meetings presented on the COVID-19 Vaccine

Target Audiences included:

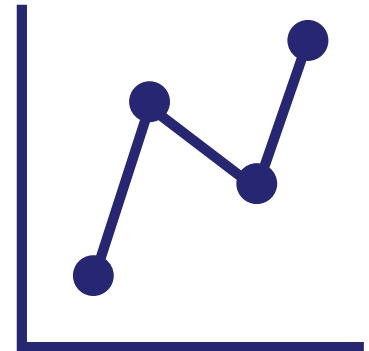
- Individuals
- Congregate Care Settings of Two or More
- Family and Natural Supports
- Direct Service Professionals
- County Boards and Other Stakeholders

Weekly COVID 19 Coordination Meetings

- Engaged Stakeholder Groups Representing the Parties Listed Above
- Allowed Ease of Use and Ongoing Discussion/Troubleshooting of The Process
- Ability to Refine plans and Clarify Concerns
- Enhanced Ongoing Communication Efforts

Prioritizing people with disabilities and caregivers in vaccine distribution plans

- PA tracked rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death among people with intellectual disabilities and autism
- Data provided for situational awareness necessary for interventions/managing outbreaks
- Data provided information for policy-making including vaccine allocation prioritization
- People with ID/A and, if applicable, their paid and unpaid caregivers included in Phase 1a or 1b of the state vaccination plan.



Educating people/providers about disability prioritization in vaccination plans

- PA developed a letter for unpaid caregivers of people with disabilities that explains their prioritization in Phase 1a of the state vaccination plan.
- Available on website with attestation

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Documents/UCletter.pdf>

