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COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is making COVID-19 vaccination recommendations based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations (federal agency).¹ Currently, there are three proposed priority subgroups to phase 1 (1a, 1b, 1c) distribution, as seen in **Figure 1**.² No specifics were provided regarding the prioritization of health care personnel (HCP). However, it was proposed that frontline HCP, HCPs who cannot work from home or have inadequate PPE, older HCPs, or HCPs with high-risk medical conditions should be targeted early in vaccination efforts.

The CDC lists below the populations for initial vaccine distribution.³

- 1A Health care personnel (paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials) and long-term care facilities.
- 1B Non-health care essential workers
- 1C Adults with high-risk medical conditions who possess risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness and people 65 years of age and older

Proposed Interim Phase 1 Sequence



Figure 1. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) proposed phase 1 distribution.²

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The pandemic has created unprecedented private and public entity collaboration. Operation Warp Speed (OWS) works on a private/public partnership and is created by the federal government to accelerate the distribution and development of vaccines and other COVID-19 related products.⁴ According to OWS, the distribution and administration of the COVID vaccine has four tenets as shown in the **figure 2**. Briefly, coverage, traceability, uptake, and visibility are taken in consideration as part of the strategy design. To review the complete strategy on the distribution plan; refer to the link. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/strategy-for-distributing-covid-19-vaccine.pdf>⁵

The CDC also released interim guidance on the distribution of the vaccine [Vaccination Program Interim Playbook](#).³ The states have their own plan of implementation. To review the executive summary of implementation per state, refer to [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance](#).⁶



OPERATION WARP SPEED VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

IN SUPPORTING THE DISTRIBUTION & ADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES, OWS HAS FOUR KEY GOALS, TENETS, AND ARCHITECTURE



Ensure safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines



Reduce morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 disease through effective and efficient distribution of COVID-19 vaccines



Support rapid vaccine distribution based on CDC guidance for states immunizations services



Assist with the return to pre-pandemic quality of life

DISTRIBUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF A COVID-19 VACCINE FOUR KEY TENETS

CONTROL/VISIBILITY

Where vaccines and secondary item kits are at all times in the process of distribution and ensuring the vaccines go to prioritized groups as determined by policy

UPTAKE

How many vaccines were administered per location per day to match supply with demand



COVERAGE

Deliver vaccines beyond the normal brick and mortar facilities, including potential mobile or on-site delivery of vaccine to long-term healthcare facilities and other hard to reach populations

TRACEABILITY

Confirm which of the approved vaccines were administered:

- Regardless of location (private/public)
- Reminder to return for second dose
- Administer the correct second dose

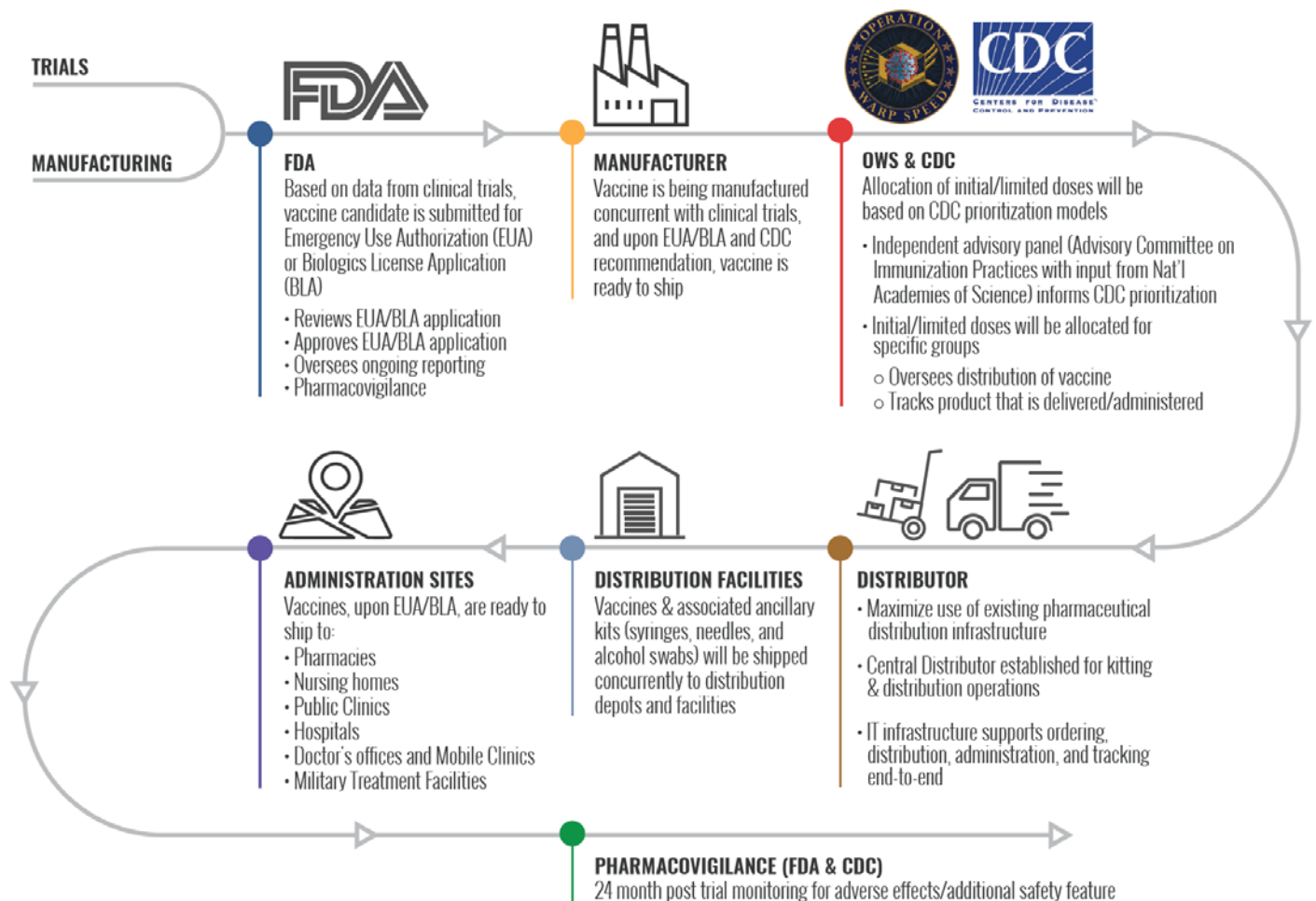


Figure 2. Operation Warp Speed vaccine distribution process⁷

COVID-19 vaccine tracker

Researchers worldwide are working around the clock to identify a safe and efficacious COVID vaccine. Currently, OWS has selected 3 vaccine candidates to support phase-3 trials. They are: Moderna's mRNA-1273, University of Oxford and AstraZeneca's AZD1222, and Pfizer and BioNTech's BNT162. To understand the complete list of COVID vaccine tracking, refer to the [Regulatory Affairs Professional Society](#) or [Milken Institute](#) sites.^{8,9}

COVID-19 vaccine for general population

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended m-RNA based COVID vaccine for people ages 16 and older. [COVID 19 vaccine facts](#).

COVID-19 vaccine for patients on immunomodulatory agents

Currently, there are no data to establish the safety and efficacy of mRNA based COVID vaccines in patients taking immunosuppressive agents, including the systemic drugs and biologic agents used in dermatology. The CDC has published recommendations for these vaccines in special populations,

including the immunosuppressed ([CDC recommendation on mRNA vaccine](#)). Specifically, the CDC advises that patients should be counseled on the following:

- Unknown vaccine safety and efficacy profiles in immunocompromised persons
- Potential for reduced immune responses
- Need to continue to follow all current guidance to protect themselves against COVID-19

To review the Academy's guidance on the use of immunosuppressive agents during the pandemic review [Guidance on the use of immunosuppressive agents](#).

This information was updated on 12/15/20.

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