



Addressing the COVID-19 Crisis: An Open Forum Webinar Series for Pharmacists

November 12, 2020



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Guest Moderator

Today's Focus:

Discuss the ethical principles behind COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and the impact pharmacists can have on the equitable distribution of vaccine.



Dan Albrant, PharmD, MDiv

Pastor, Madison United Methodist Charge
The United Methodist Church

Guest Speaker



Ettie Rosenberg, PharmD, JD

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

West Coast University School of Pharmacy

Guest Speaker



Daniel Zlott, PharmD, BCOP
Senior Vice President
Education and Business Development
American Pharmacists Association

Subject Matter Expert: Q&A



Mitchel Rothholz, RPh, MBA
Chief of Governance & State Affiliates
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Executive Director
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Foundation

Subject Matter Expert: Q&A

Disclosures

Guest speakers and APhA staff declare no conflicts of interest or financial interests in any product or service mentioned in this activity, including grants, employment, gifts, stock holdings, and honoraria.

CPE Information

Target Audience: Pharmacists and Technicians

ACPE#: 0202-0000-20-351-L01-P

Activity Type: Knowledge-based

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss vaccine prioritization and how it differs from vaccine distribution.
2. Identify the ethical principles that guide COVID-19 vaccine prioritization.
3. Discuss potential ethical scenarios pharmacists may face in providing COVID-19 vaccines.

All of the following are Ethical Principles guiding the ACIP's decisions regarding prioritization of groups to receive the COVID-19 vaccine EXCEPT:

- a. Justice
- b. Sustainability
- c. Transparency
- d. Equity
- e. Maximize benefits and Minimize Harms

Pharmacists and other healthcare providers who order and administer COVID-19 vaccine must follow the ACIP recommendations for prioritization.

- a. True
- b. False

Your pharmacy just received a shipment of COVID-19 vaccine. A patient picking up a prescription asks if she can receive the vaccine. What should be your response to the request?

- a. Determine if the patient fits into the current ACIP-designated priority group
- b. Determine if the patient is insured and has coverage for the vaccine
- c. Let the patient know she is eligible for the vaccine
- d. Administer the vaccine immediately

Format for Today's Webinar

1:00 pm: Introductions

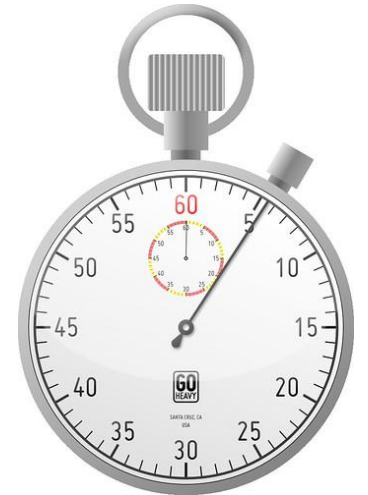
1:05 pm: Interview with Dan Albrant and Ettie Rosenberg

1:25 pm: Open Forum: A Minute for Your Thoughts

1:50 pm: Wrap Up: Review of APhA's Ongoing Activities and Assessment Questions

Open Forum Ground Rules

- Use the **Questions** field on the GoToWebinar toolbar to submit comments and questions related to the topic discussion
- Individuals whose submissions are selected will be asked by the moderator to state the comment or question for the audience. The line for the individual will be unmuted to read their comment or question.
- To maximize the number of questions/comments addressed, a **60-second time limit** will be in effect for everyone to state their question or comment.
- We will try to get to as many comments and questions as possible. We have created a new forum for COVID-19 discussions where further discussion post-webinar. Information on participating in this forum will be provided at the end of the open forum.



Interview with Dan Albrant & Ettie Rosenberg

Discuss the ethical principles behind COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and the impact pharmacists can have on the equitable distribution of vaccine.

WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination

14 September 2020



Human Well-Being
Equal Respect
Global Equity

National Equity
Reciprocity
Legitimacy

WHO SAGE Priority Groups for Vaccination

Populations with significantly elevated risk of being infected

- Health workers at high risk
- Employment categories unable to physically distance
- Social groups unable to physically distance
- Groups in dense urban neighborhoods or living in multigenerational housing

Populations with significantly elevated risk of severe disease/death

- Older adults
- Groups with comorbidities
- Sociodemographic groups at disproportionately higher risk of severe disease and death

National Academies Framework

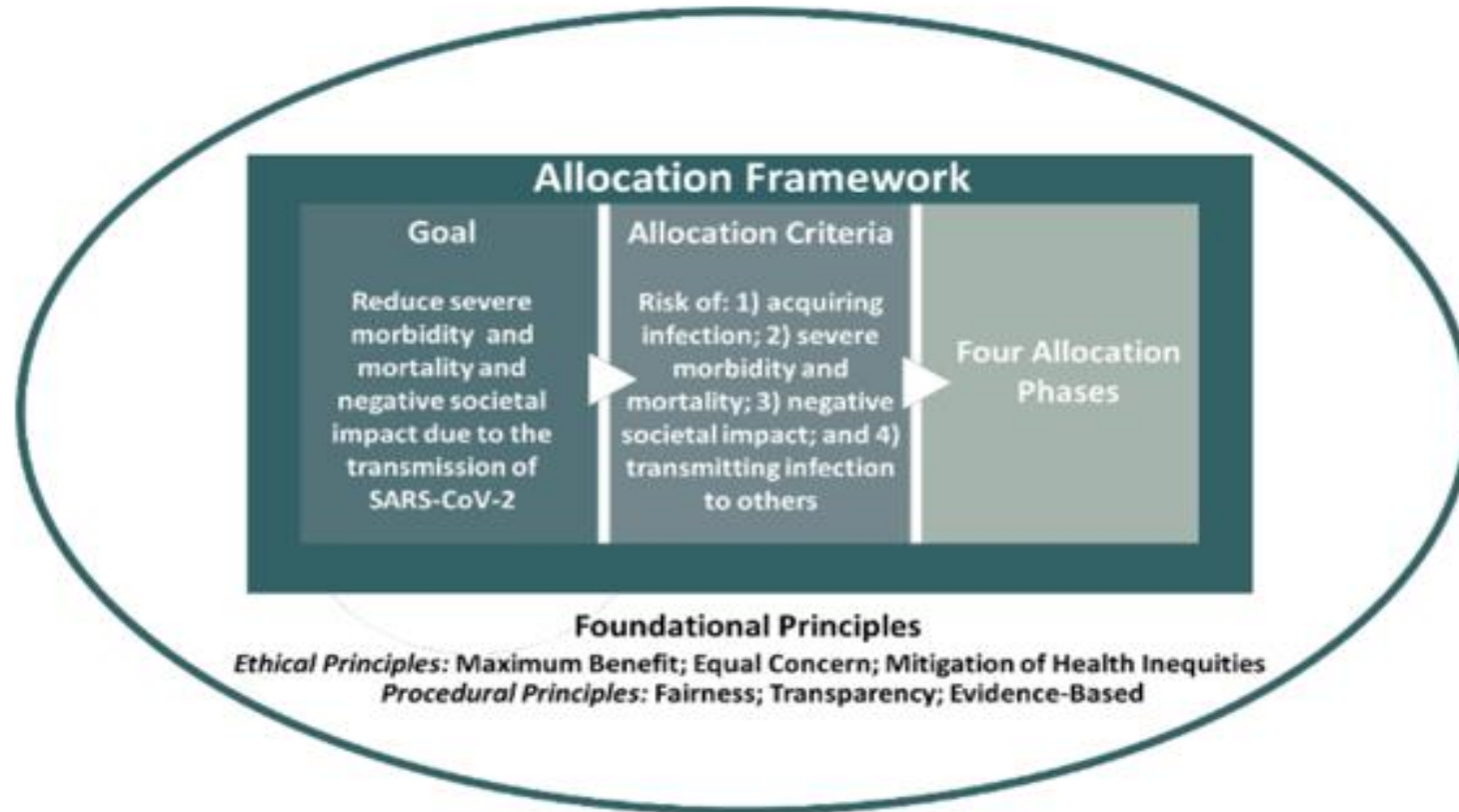


FIGURE S-1 Major elements of the framework for equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccine.

Ethical Principles – National Academies

Maximum Benefit – encompasses the obligation to protect and promote the public's health and its socioeconomic well-being in the short and long term.

Equal Concern – requires that every person be considered and treated as having equal dignity, worth, and value.

Mitigation of health inequities – includes the obligation to explicitly address the higher burden of COVID-19 experienced by populations affected most heavily, given their exposure and compounding health inequities.

Procedural Principles – National Academies

Fairness – requires engagement with the public, particularly those most affected by the pandemic, and impartial decision making about and even-handed application and allocation criteria and priority categories.

Transparency – includes the obligation to communicate with the public openly, clearly, accurately, and straightforwardly about the allocation framework as it is being developed, deployed, and modified.

Evidence-based – expresses the requirement to base the allocation framework, including its goal, criteria, and phases, on the best available and constantly updated scientific information and data.

National Academies Prioritization Framework

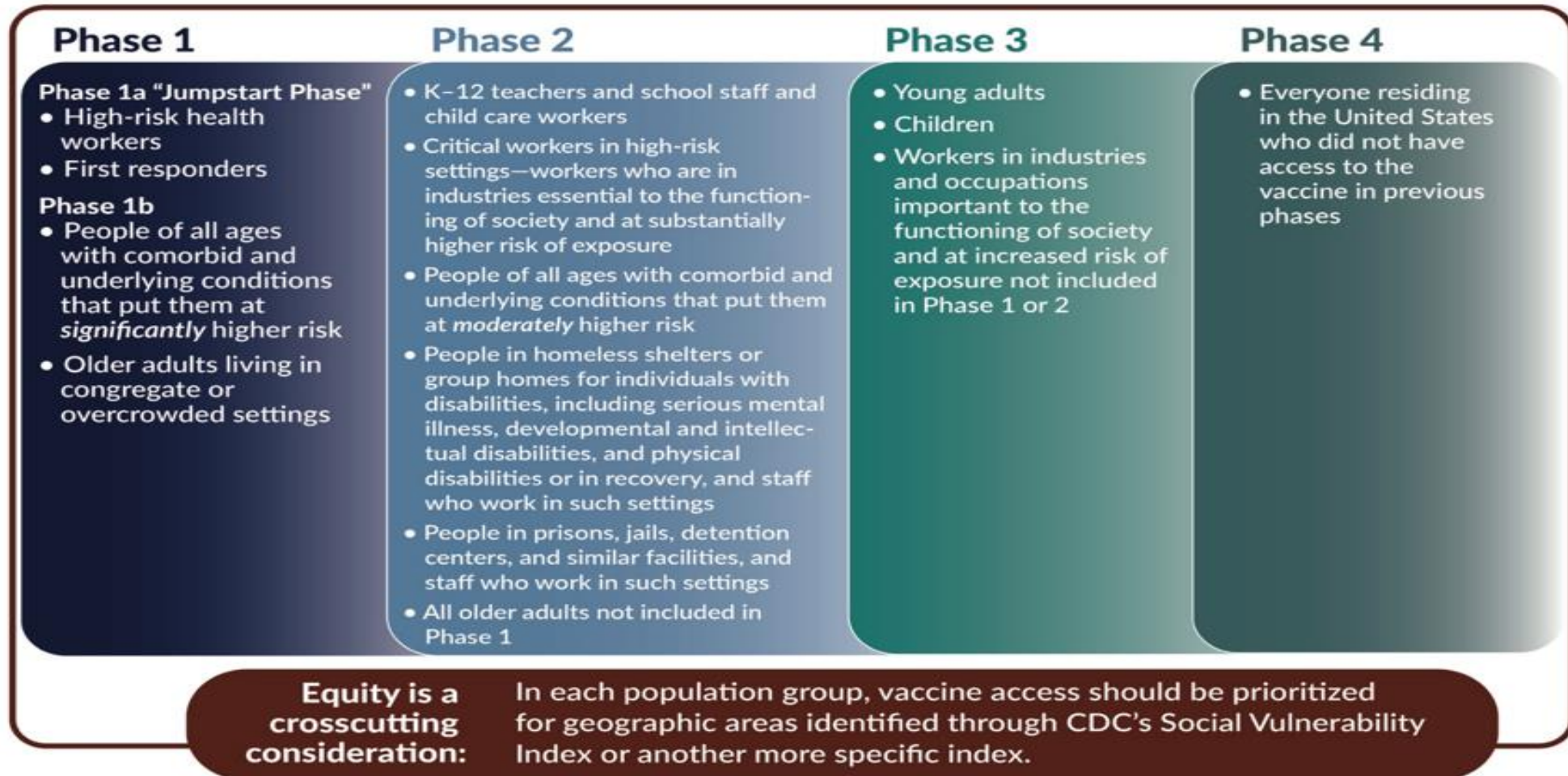


FIGURE S-2 A phased approach to vaccine allocation for COVID-19.

CDC'S ACIP: Proposed Ethics/Equity Framework

- Maximize Benefits/Minimize Harm
- Equity
- Justice
- Fairness
- Transparency

ACIP Proposed Ethical Principles

Maximize benefits and minimize harms

- Minimize death and serious disease
- Addresses our obligation to promote public health and promote the common good
- Balanced with our obligation to respect and care for persons
- Based on best available science

Equity

- Vaccine allocation reduces rather than increases health disparities
- Ensure that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

ACIP Proposed Ethical Principles

Justice

- Commitment to remove unfair, unjust, and avoidable barriers to good health and well-being that disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged populations.

Fairness

- Commitment to fair stewardship in the distribution of a scarce resource
 - Equitable distribution of benefits and burdens
 - Not exacerbate existing disparities in health outcomes
 - Equal opportunity to access vaccine to those within the agreed groups of early recipients
 - Consistency in implementation

ACIP Proposed Ethical Principles

Transparency

- Supporting principles and process for allocation decisions are clear, understandable, and open for review
- To the degree possible, given the urgency of the response, public participation in the creation and review processes should be recognized and honored
- Essential to build and maintain public trust during planning and implementation
- All recommendations are evidence-based, with information used to make recommendations made publicly available

Interview with Dan Albrant & Ettie Rosenberg

Discuss the ethical principles behind COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and the impact pharmacists can have on the equitable distribution of vaccine.

Open Forum Discussion: A Minute for Your Thoughts *Comments, Questions, Feedback*

Review of APhA's Ongoing Activities and What's Coming



AMA announces vaccine-specific CPT codes for coronavirus immunizations

NOV 10, 2020

The following codes have been accepted by the CPT Editorial Panel. These codes will be effective upon receiving Emergency Use Authorization or approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

Vaccine Code	Vaccine Code Descriptor	Vaccine Administration Code(s)	Vaccine Manufacturer	Vaccine Name(s)	NDC 10/NDC 11 Labeler Product ID (Vial)	Dosing Interval
91300	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted, for intramuscular use	0001A (1 st dose) 0002A (2 nd dose)	Pfizer, Inc	Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine	59267-1000-1 59267-1000-01	21 days
91301	Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage, for intramuscular use	0011A (1 st dose) 0012A (2 nd dose)	Moderna, Inc	Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	80777-273-10 80777-0273-10	28 days

Source: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/cpt/covid-19-cpt-vaccine-and-immunization-codes>

APhA COVID-19 Resources: Know the Facts



Practical Information for Pharmacists to Know Now

New Resource:

- Reimbursement for Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine(s) – What We Know

Check out the library of [practice resources here](#)

APhA COVID-19 RESOURCES: KNOW THE FACTS

Reimbursement for Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine(s)—What We Know

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) [released](#) a detailed plan that begins to [outline measures](#) to ensure coverage and payment for the administration of the eventual COVID-19 vaccine(s). Pharmacists will have a key role to play in ensuring the vaccine(s) are accessible to the public. This resource provides an overview of what we know about COVID-19 vaccine reimbursement at this time and covers steps pharmacists can take now to be positioned as a COVID-19 vaccine provider.

Summary of CMS's Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine Reimbursement

What should pharmacists know about vaccine reimbursement as outlined in the CMS interim final rule?

The rule addresses both reimbursement for the vaccine product(s) approved or authorized by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and reimbursement to the provider for administration. A supply of vaccine product has been purchased by the federal government and will be provided at no cost to providers. CMS makes it clear that the federal government intends for public and private health insurers to cover the cost of vaccine administration with no cost sharing for patients, meaning that **patients shouldn't have to pay out-of-pocket costs to receive a COVID-19 vaccine(s).**

How will the COVID-19 vaccine product be reimbursed?

Initially, the federal government will supply the vaccine(s) and absorb 100% of the product costs. In the future, however, reimbursement will be based on 95% of the average wholesale price (or "reasonable cost").

What are the proposed reimbursement rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration?

Payment rates will depend on whether the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine(s) are administered in a single dose or multiple doses. The proposed rates are:

Single Dose	Multiple Doses
\$28.39	First: \$16.94
	Final: \$28.39

*Costs will be geographically adjusted

Pharmacists should review the toolkit for health care providers. The [toolkit gives health care providers](#) not currently enrolled in Medicare the information needed to administer and bill vaccines to Medicare patients. Toolkits were also made available for [Medicaid](#) and [private insurers](#).

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Advocating for You on Coronavirus

What Now?

Biden Announces Coronavirus Task Force Members



Pharmacists in Congress

- ✓ Congressman Buddy Carter (R, GA-01)
- ✓ Congresswoman-Elect
Diana Harshbarger (R, TN-01)

COVID-19 Education Opportunities – **CE Available**

Pediatric Immunization Refresher for Pharmacists

- 2 hours of CPE focused on pediatric immunizations
- Meets HHS requirements for pharmacists to provide pediatric immunizations!

<https://www.pharmacist.com/pharmacy-based-immunizations-pediatric-patients>

October 2020 ACIP Immunization Update

<https://elearning.pharmacist.com/products/6209/october-2020-acip-immunization-update>





Joint Federal Pharmacy Seminar ★ November 13-14, 2020

Collaboration and Innovation in
Federal Pharmacy



This Weekend – November 13-14! Open to all!
Earn up to 20.5 hours of CPE for just \$99, program includes:

COVID-19, including testing and vaccination
Readiness and emergency preparedness
Business operations and formulary management
Clinical updates, including tobacco cessation
Innovations, including minimal contact prescription deliver

REGISTER TODAY: <https://jfpsmeeting.pharmacist.com>

Post on **ENGAGE**

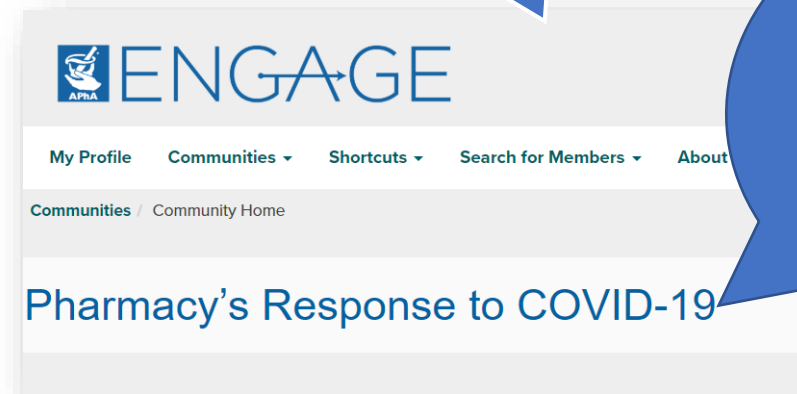
Pharmacy's Response to COVID-19

POST your questions

SHARE your lessons learned

SUPPORT your colleagues

ACCESS the latest information



What are your
concerns about
prioritization?

What
information do
you need from
APhA to
prepare for
distribution?

Weekly Open Forum Webinars



Join Us!

Thursday, November 19th, from 1-2pm ET

The Pharmacy Technician's Role in COVID-19

Today's webinar recording and slides will be
available within 24hrs

<https://www.pharmacist.com/coronavirus/weekly-webinars>

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How to claim CE credit if you attended live:

- Be prepared to record the code when it appears
- To Claim CPE Credit:
 1. After the webinar ends, return to the “My Training” page on pharmacist.com (<http://elearning.pharmacist.com/my-training>)
 2. Log in using your pharmacist.com username and password
 3. Click on the “The Ethics of COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization and Distribution” session listed in your enrollments
 4. Click on “The Ethics of COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization and Distribution” under the “Activities” heading
 5. Enter the attendance code
 6. Complete the evaluation
 7. Claim credit