

Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care COVID-19 Vaccine Preparedness Updates and Lessons Learned

Purpose of this Listserv Message

This message provides updated guidance and reminders about preparing for vaccinations of people experiencing homelessness.

Target Audience

Homeless assistance providers in the Ohio BoSCoC.

COVID-19 Vaccine Tracking Requirements and Reporting Availability

Effective February 5th, 2021, Ohio BoSCoC homeless assistance projects are required to complete *COVID-19 Vaccine Assessments* on clients and record data in HMIS. Detailed guidance and training materials about vaccine reporting requirements, including the webinar recording from 2/4/21, are available on the [Ohio BoSCoC webpage](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Assessment Reporting

HMIS Users can now find what households are missing their vaccine data by checking their Data Quality reporting in [R minor elevated](#).

Additionally, a “COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution” tab is now available in [Rme](#). Providers can access new reporting through that tab that they can use to help determine which clients are coming due for a second vaccine dose and when the dose may be due.

Preparing for Vaccinations: Lessons Learned

Over the past weeks, some homeless service providers have been able to successfully access COVID-19 vaccinations for their clients and staff. Below are some of the key lessons learned from their experiences so far:

- **Promote vaccine acceptance now**
 - Trust and access to accurate information are critical to successful vaccination campaigns
 - Start talking with your clients NOW, even before vaccines may be available, about how they are feeling about taking the vaccine. Respond to questions and concerns with accurate information, and engage in discussions coming from a place of empathy and understanding
 - Continue to re-engage with clients who indicated initial resistance to the vaccine, as those views can change over time and with more information
 - Consider creating Vaccine Champions within your staff or among clients to help promote vaccine acceptance
- **Know the numbers of clients who will ACCEPT the vaccine, not just the total number of clients in your project**
 - Similar to other groups, some people experiencing homelessness are declining the COVID-19 vaccines.
 - When communicating with your LHD about the number of clients in your program they can vaccinate, it's important to provide them the number of adult clients who have indicated they would accept the vaccine, not just the total number of residents in your program
 - Providing the most accurate number of clients who will accept vaccination will help ensure that vaccine doses are not wasted.
 - If you do not know exactly how many clients would accept the vaccine, you may want to consider providing an estimated number to your LHD that accounts for some rate of clients declining the vaccine.
- **Be ready to manage a vaccine event at a moment's notice**

- Several providers/communities have reported that they have been given less than 24-hours notice by their LHD to plan an on-site vaccination
- To ensure that vaccination events are successful, even with little notice, providers should plan for those events as much as possible in advance. This may include the following:
 - Identify or confirm the number of adult clients who will accept the vaccine
 - Determine how building space and/or outdoor space may be used for the vaccination event to ensure appropriate social distance
 - Determine staffing plan
 - Secure PPE for those staffing the vaccination event and sufficient cleaning supplies
 - Secure any incentives your agency plans to use to promote vaccine acceptance, or at least ensure funding has been secured

As your agencies are preparing for vaccine distribution to your clients and staff, please don't hesitate to reach out directly to the CoC team if you need additional training or support around any aspect of that planning. You can contact Erica Mulryan at ericamulryan@cohhio.org directly.

Questions regarding this message can be directed to Erica Mulryan, COHHIO, at ericamulryan@cohhio.org.