

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

As the COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues, we would like to provide an update specific to our business community. This document will provide updates on vaccine priority populations in Phase 1B & 1C, tools for promoting vaccine confidence, and mental health resources for employees.

Vaccine Priority Populations in Phase 1B and 1C

- Vaccination efforts for [Phase 1B](#) continue. Linn County is currently vaccinating Phase 1B, Tier 1, Group 3.
- This week, the Iowa Department of Public Health announced the first doses of newly approved Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine will be set aside for [Phase 1B, Tier 2, Group 2](#) populations. LCPH is working with local businesses to identify eligible employees.
- Vaccine will continue to be offered to all eligible populations, including Phase 1A and Phase 1B, Tier 1, Groups 1 & 2 populations as they are identified and request the vaccine.
- The Iowa Infectious Disease Advisory Council (IDAC) has recommended priority populations for [Phase 1C](#), which include individuals 65 years of age and older and individuals 64 years of age and younger with [underlying medical conditions](#) that are or may be an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. The IDAC recommendation is different than [CDC's recommendation for Phase 1C](#). Details of how phase 1C will be rolled out in Iowa are yet to come.
- **Note:** IDAC had recommended on January 11 for Phase 1B to include Iowans age 75 and older, and other Iowans who are vulnerable to exposure to COVID-19 or high-risk for illness as the result of a COVID-19 infection. Governor Reynolds announced on January 21 individuals 65 years of age and older would be eligible in Phase 1B.

Tools For Promoting Vaccine Confidence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released COVID-19 vaccination [communication toolkits](#) for [Essential Workers](#) and [Community Based Organizations](#) to help employers build confidence in these important new vaccines. The toolkit will help employers across various industries educate their workforces about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and address common questions and concerns. Tools available include letter templates, flyers and posters, fact sheets, presentation templates, and social media posts.

Mental Health Resources For Employees

The daily stress caused by COVID-19, social distancing, the August 10 derecho, and a resulting financial crisis have had a big impact on our community. It is normal to experience feelings of isolation, anxiety, and uncertainty in this abnormal situation. Additionally, the events of the last year have only intensified feelings among those living with poor mental health or a mental illness. Prioritizing your mental health and staying connected to your family, friends, and community is more important than ever. Linn County Public Health has recently added links to informational videos from Foundation 2 on how to access their resources. The links can be found [here](#).