

Preparing for the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in Los Angeles County

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the health and wellbeing of Los Angeles County. The longstanding hope of an effective treatment or vaccine has been our motivation to continue living with social distancing, masks, and other measures as our new normal. In recent weeks, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued guidance to State public health officials, prompting them to prepare for COVID-19 vaccination distribution. Currently, there are 37 vaccines in clinical trials and 3 vaccines are in the third phase of trials. Some reports indicate that limited COVID-19 vaccine doses in phase 3 may be available by early November 2020, with substantial increases in vaccine supply slated for 2021.

As a County, we want to be well prepared to receive, store, distribute and administer available vaccines as fairly and equitably as possible with no time wasted. Our LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) is responsible for developing and implementing the vaccination distribution plan. Effectively distributing a vaccine to millions of Angelenos will require a robust and comprehensive plan. The CDC provided guidance

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on what is required for the preparation and distribution of a vaccine. The guidance includes ordering, data reporting, and tailoring of CDC-developed public-facing communications; preparing for the delivery, storage, and handling of the vaccine vials; identifying high risk priority groups that need the vaccine first like healthcare professionals and those living in long term care facilities; and setting up mass vaccination clinics for the general population when more doses of vaccine are available, supply permitting. Los Angeles County has around ten and a half million residents and carefully developing an immunization plan as soon as possible that ensures vaccine allocation is fair, that targeted groups are reached, and underserved populations disproportionately affected are justly attended to is critical to have on hand and ready to implement once a vaccine has been approved and is safe to administer.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors directs the Department of Public Health, in consultation with any relevant departments, cities, or community agencies to follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance and develop a vaccination plan for Los Angeles County and report back to the Board in 45 days.

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JH:jb