

RESPONSE TO EMPLOYER INQUIRY RE: ESSENTIAL WORKER VACCINATION

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) is working with State and local agencies, area hospitals and other partners to implement the [MDHHS plan](#) for a phased approach to vaccine distribution.

PHASE	POPULATION	TENTATIVE TIMELINE
1	A Persons working in healthcare settings who have potential for exposure to patients; residents and workers in long term care facilities.	In progress
	B Essential workers who keep critical infrastructure open and functioning.	Early 2021
	C Populations at high risk of severe illness due to COVID-19 infection.	Early 2021
2	All individuals 16 years or older.	Mid-2021

As an employer, you may have some employees that will qualify for Phase 1B vaccinations as *essential workers*. These include:

- K-12 educators and childcare staff
- Some workers serving in one of the 16 sectors identified as [Critical Infrastructure](#)

Chemical
Communications
Dams
Emergency Services
Financial Services
Government Facilities

Information Technology
Transportation Systems
Energy
Food and Agriculture
Healthcare and Public
Health

Nuclear Reactors
Materials and Waster
Water/Wastewater
Systems

- Staff in homeless shelters, corrections facilities, congregate child care institutions, and adult and child protective services
- Workers with unique skill sets not covered above (ex: non-hospital laboratories and mortuary services)

Employer input is needed in order to expedite vaccinations during Phase 1B.

To that end, OCDPH is in the process of creating a **COVID-19 Essential Worker Survey**.

Employers interested in providing their essential workers the opportunity to be vaccinated as part of Phase 1B will be asked to fill out the survey. The survey will be available for employers online at miottawa.com **beginning in January**.

Please note: *Filling out the COVID-19 Essential Worker survey does not guarantee your employees will be included in the Phase 1B vaccine distribution to essential workers. It simply provides OCDPH with information for planning purposes.*

For more information on vaccine distribution, please visit:

- Ottawa County: [Ottawa County Department of Public Health](#)
- Regional: [Vaccinate West Michigan](#)
- State: [Michigan COVID-19 Vaccination Interim Prioritization Guidance](#)

- Federal: [Center for Disease Control and Prevention Recommendations for Vaccine Allocation](#)

If you have additional employer questions regarding essential worker vaccination, our economic development partners at Lakeshore Advantage are also a great resource. General employer vaccination questions can be emailed to [Mandy Cooper](#), Director of Strategic Initiatives.