Indiana Department of Health

Eric J. Holcomb
*Governor*

Kristina M. Box, MD, FACOG
*State Health Commissioner*

March 9, 2021

Dear Provider:

Indiana is vaccinating individuals with the highest risk comorbidities and has now expanded that eligibility to include other high-risk individuals.

**Individuals with the following conditions are NOW ELIGIBLE for COVID-19 vaccination:**

- Early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood:
  - Cystic fibrosis
  - Muscular dystrophy
  - People born with severe heart defects, requiring specialized medical care.
  - People with severe type 1 diabetes, who have been hospitalized in the past year.
  - Phenylketonuria (PKU), Tay-Sachs, and other rare, inherited metabolic disorders.
  - Epilepsy with continuing seizures, hydrocephaly, microcephaly and other severe neurologic disorders
  - People with severe asthma who have been hospitalized for this in the past year
  - Alpha and beta thalassemia
  - Spina bifida
  - Cerebral palsy
- People who require supplemental oxygen and/or tracheostomy
- Pulmonary fibrosis, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, HIV, daily use of corticosteroids, use of other immune weakening medicines, receiving tumor necrosis factor-alpha blocker or rituximab.
- Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled individuals receiving home/community-based services. (Family and Social Services Administration will provide patient information for this community.)
- Other

The following individuals were previously eligible:

- Active dialysis patients
- Sickle cell disease patients
- Down syndrome
- Post-solid organ transplant
- People who are actively in treatment (chemotherapy, radiation, surgery) for cancer now or in the last three months, or with active primary lung cancer or active hematologic cancers (lymphoma, leukemia and multiple myeloma)

Attached is a letter from the Indiana Department of Health explaining to your patients that IDOH will be reaching out via text/email and postal service to invite them to register to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. **Please share this with the patients that you are treating or have treated in the categories above.** Your support as the patient's primary provider is critical to this outreach. You are encouraged to talk to your patients about signing up while they are visiting you in clinic once you have submitted their information to the portal.

The individuals will receive a unique registration link or may call 211 **after** receiving the notification. Please remind patients who are 16 and 17 that they must sign up for locations with the Pfizer vaccine. This information is available in the Zotec scheduling system.

**To submit your eligible patient for vaccination, please enter your patients into a portal with their name, DOB, diagnosis, email address, cell phone, home phone and addresses**. This information will be used to send patients a vaccination invitation. Every piece of information you are able to supply us with will increase the likelihood we can reach the patient. A cell phone number or an email will be required for the patient to receive the link to the scheduler. The state Department of Health will call individuals on their home phone if they aren't scheduled.

The portal is available here: https://eportal.isdh.in.gov/C19PatientPopulation/Default.aspx. If you have any difficulty submitting your information, please enter a help ticket at https://eportal.isdh.in.gov/SchoolAppCustomer/ or call the general help desk at 888-432-9600 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

**It is important to input eligible patients into the portal as soon as possible.** Other eligibility categories will be added in the near future, and we want to afford these individuals the opportunity to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Please let us know how we can assist you.

Please note that individual patient health information (PHI) may be shared with the Department of Health without the consent of the patient through the Treatment exception in HIPAA, found at 45 CFR 164.506. This is a referral for treatment, the treatment is the vaccination, from one provider to another. The state Department of Health is a provider for purposes of vaccine administration.

Thank you for your help to reach this at-risk group for COVID-19 so that we can work effectively to protect them with COVID-19 vaccination. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kristina Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

Lindsay Weaver, MD, FACEP
Chief Medical Officer