



Background

Overview

Vaccinating Californians quickly for COVID-19 is paramount to both public health and the state's recovery from the pandemic. This effort poses several complex challenges for state planners and leaders due to the following factors:

- Uncertainty about when and how many vaccines will be received
- The need for extensive coordination between federal, state, and local governments and healthcare providers, vaccine manufacturers, and others
- Logistical complications related to shipping, storing, and administering the vaccine
- Challenges related to scheduling and tracking vaccinations to match those who want the vaccines to available doses, and assuring second doses are administered on the specified timeline
- The massive scope of the effort to vaccinate tens of millions of Californians

This hearing is intended to provide an update on vaccine distribution efforts, including the work of the state and local governments and their short and long-term plans. As the planning and distribution process continues to evolve quickly, this hearing is an opportunity to provide the public with information and help set expectations for the coming weeks and months.

Vaccine Numbers Update

California received its first shipments of the vaccine in December 2020. Weekly allocations to the state have been increasing in 2021 with the state receiving between 500,000 and 600,000 doses per week in recent weeks. Notably, California received more than 1 million doses last week. While this increase is promising, the supply pipeline from the federal government is uncertain from week-to-week and some administering entities have reported that their vaccine supplies are running low.

In recent days, per figures reported by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the state has averaged about 150,000 doses administered per day.

The following information provides a breakdown of vaccines administered and received by the state as of February 8, 2021:

- About 4.7 million doses have been administered in California
- About 7.1 million doses have been delivered to the state
- Nearly 67 percent of delivered doses have been administered

Vaccine Rollout and Trends

The early vaccine rollout in California showed that the state was struggling to quickly administer the doses that it received. In comparison to other states, it ranked near the bottom on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) dashboard of vaccine doses administered per 100,000 people. Additionally, it ranked near the bottom when compared to other states for the percent of doses administered versus those distributed to the state.

While CDPH has noted that initial state vaccine data issues, including lags and incomplete information, could have had an impact on these figures, data reporting has recently improved. The following table, which is based on information from the CDPH COVID-19 Facts daily updates, shows trends by week even though all figures may not be accurate:

California Vaccination Trends By Week

As of:	Doses Administered	Doses Distributed to California	Percent of Doses Administered	Estimated Doses Administered Over Prior Week
1/9/2021	734,405	2,180,725	33.7%	299,910
1/16/2021	1,303,518	3,226,775	40.4%	569,113
1/23/2021	2,191,111	4,135,625	53.0%	887,593
1/30/2021	3,266,914	4,759,750	68.6%	1,075,803
2/6/2021	4,453,271	6,963,500	64.0%	1,186,357

The table identifies the following trends:

- An increase in the percent of doses administered to those distributed from about a third a month ago to about two thirds in recent weeks
- An increase in the number of weekly vaccinations from about 300,000 to nearly 1.2 million, with the past two weeks each showing more than 1 million doses administered
- The state has received nearly 4.8 million doses in the past month

Rankings based on recent CDC data show that California has moved towards the middle, among states, for vaccines administered per 100,000 people. As of the morning of February 8, 2021, California ranked third among the following seven large states:

California's Vaccinations Compared to Other Large States

State	Doses Administered Per 100,000
Florida	12,141
New York	12,013
California	11,351
Texas	11,197
Ohio	11,070
Illinois	11,061
Pennsylvania	10,997

Vaccine Eligibility

The state initially implemented a phased-in distribution plan, starting with the approximately 3 million health care workers and residents in long-term care facilities. The second phase prioritized workers in certain essential industries. Recently, however, the plan has shifted to continue to prioritize certain essential workers, but to also take an age-based approach that focuses on those 65 and older.

Beginning in mid-February, the state will implement a statewide standard under which individuals 65 and older and workers in the education, child care, emergency services, and food and agriculture sectors will be eligible to start making appointments to receive the vaccine, pending vaccine availability. All subsequent groups will become eligible based on age and the entire state will add eligible groups simultaneously.

Currently, healthcare workers, long-term care residents and those who are 65 and older are now being vaccinated. As supplies allow, workers in education, childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture will also be vaccinated. State officials estimate that the general public (those not covered in the previous groups) will have access to vaccines by spring 2021.

Recent Developments

The distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is a massively complex undertaking and, as such, it continues to evolve. Recent actions include the following:

- In response to the constant, ongoing need for more vaccine, President Biden recently announced the purchase of additional doses that would raise the total number of vaccine doses ordered by the federal government from 400 million to 600 million.

- On January 28, 2021, the state's Government Operations Agency announced its intent to enter into a contract with Blue Shield of California to serve as a third-party administrator for California's vaccine distribution effort and with Kaiser to oversee mass vaccination sites and other efforts to vaccinate hard-to-reach and disproportionately impacted populations. While details are forthcoming, the letters of intent state that Blue Shield and Kaiser will not profit from the contracts.
- The state also recently launched MyTurn, a new sign-up tool that will allow for better tracking of where vaccines have gone and who has been vaccinated. Residents can use the app to schedule an appointment when it is their turn. It is currently being piloted in Los Angeles and San Diego counties before expanding statewide by mid-February.
- On February 1, 2021, the Department of Finance notified the Legislature of \$1.7 billion in unanticipated federal funds to CDPH for the Public and Environmental Health Program. This program supports jurisdictions' COVID-19 pandemic response and provides funding for testing, contact tracing, vaccinations, surveillance, containment and mitigation.
- On February 3, 2021, Governor Newsom and the Biden Administration unveiled two community vaccination sites in Oakland and Los Angeles as part of a wider effort to establish 100 vaccination sites nationwide in the federal administration's first 100 days. The sites will be co-run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the state through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).
- On February 3, 2021, the state's Community Vaccine Advisory Committee, which was established to help guide the state's planning process and expedite a fair and equitable distribution of the vaccine, convened to review a draft plan to place those with disabilities or underlying medical conditions next in line after older residents and some essential workers. The draft plan does not specify which disabilities or medical conditions would qualify for the prioritization and it would only apply to those vaccinated at hospitals or other clinics where medical status could be verified. It is still under review.
- On February 4, 2021, Johnson and Johnson applied for an emergency use authorization for its single-shot COVID-19 vaccine from the federal Food and Drug Administration. If approved, it would be the third COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use in the U.S. behind those manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.
- On February 4, 2021, CDPH released updated COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Guidelines. The guidance further clarifies the types of workers in the essential health care and public health sector eligibility category to also include persons at risk of direct patient exposure; workers who come into direct contact with the virus through research, development, manufacturing or testing; and, workers who are manufacturing vaccine, therapeutics, devices, supplies or personal protective equipment supporting the COVID-19 response.
- The federal government just began providing the state forecasts of its vaccine allotments over the next three weeks. Projections show more than 1 million doses a week.