

SOUTH CAROLINA COVID-19 VACCINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 6th, 2021

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Dr. Greg Barabell | Chaunte McClure | Leigh Bragg* |
| Dr. Linda Bell | Robert Saul | Humna Fayyaz* |
| Patti Fabel | Danielle Bowen Scheurer | Rebecca Brannon |
| Dr. Jeff Cashman | Cheryl L. Scott* | Dr. James Bradford |
| Beth Morgan | Kim Wilkerson | McColloch Salehi |
| Dr. Divya Ahuja | Shawn Stinson | Kristy Fryar* |
| Dr. Jane Kelly | Julie Smithwick | Leigh Bragg* |
| Valarie Bishop | Molly Spearman | Steve Boucher |
| Warren Bolton | Graham Adams | Elizabeth Childers* |
| Kimberly Tissot | Brenda Kneece | Delores Dacosta |
| Katherine Plunkett | Tanya Russo* | Ryan Brown |
| Felicia Pickering | JT Gary* | Teresa Arnold |
| Dr. Michael Psikogios | Jeff Perez | Dr. Rick Foster |
| Dr. Jonathan Knoche* | Jorge Gomez* | |

*DHEC support staff

Opening- Committee Business- Dr. Linda Bell

- Review of Purpose: Fair, equitable and evidence-based approach to equitable distribution of initial vaccine allocation and assist in communication strategies.

Appointment and Term of VAC Secretary- Dr. Linda Bell

- Meeting Minutes for today taken by volunteer McColloch Salehi.

Populations Included in Phase 1b and Phase 1C- Group Discussion

- Harbor Pilots- to be included.
- Manufacturing workers for ultra-cold freezers- essential equipment for vaccine distribution.
- Included in 1a- workers in adult daycare settings
 - Adults attending adult daycare- 1c

Requests for inclusion in Phase prioritization

Clarifications for Phases 1a and 1c:

- Workers at Adult Day Care settings should be included in 1a (they must be licensed to function at the same level of care as nursing home workers)
 - Adults in Day Care are 1c unless age 75 or above (then 1b)
 - These adults are not at the same level of increased risk as those living in congregate setting
- Correctional officers are defined as frontline law enforcement and as such are 1a
- Cystic fibrosis and all chronic lung disease, not just COPD, are 1c
- Neurological and neuromuscular disease (e.g., ALS) are 1c

Three categories in Phase 1b:

- Age 75 years or older
- Workers in health care settings not vaccinated in 1a
- Frontline essential workers who are in sectors essential to the functioning of society *and are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2*, that is, their occupational risk is above the general population (ACIP and DHEC definition)
- **Criteria for Phase 1B does NOT include:** Vaccinating to prevent transmission
 - Vaccination protects the individual and may not protect vulnerable people they work with

Three categories in Phase 1c:

- Age 65-74 regardless of co-morbidities
- Ages 16-64 with co-morbidities that increase the risk for severe COVID-19
- Essential workers not in 1b (e.g. transportation and logistics, food service, housing construction, finance, IT, communications, energy, law, media, public safety, and public health staff who are non-frontline healthcare workers)

YES, meets the frontline essential worker definition for 1b

- Linen Services workers exposed to the linen and laundry from hospitals that have been contaminated by COVID-19 patients (exposure to possible infectious material)
- Organ Procurement Organization workers (increased risk, exposed while in ICUs)
- Food pantry and Food Bank workers and volunteers (uncontrolled exposure to the public)
- Retail/grocery store clerks (uncontrolled exposure to the public)
- Neuropsychology, Behavioral, Mental Health, and Counseling workers (HCWs not vaccinated in 1a)
- ~~AeroCare~~ (delivers oxygen, CPAP, other respiratory equipment to homes) (exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases)
- Workers at COVID-19 testing/vaccinating sites (exposure to suspected COVID-19 cases)
- American Sign Language and other interpreters who work in medical settings (HCWs not vaccinated in 1a)
- Food manufacturing, meat, poultry workers & livestock producers (higher risk of exposure because congregate work setting)

Revised 01/05/2020

- Note: adjust “AeroCare” to general category of durable medical equipment
- Concern regarding inclusion of teachers
 - Clarification: Teachers ARE included in 1B
- Concern for inclusion of staff in higher education
 - Request for inclusion and discussion of comparative risk with K-12 educators
- Workers at COVID testing/vaccination sites- difference in risk levels
- Clarification regarding those performing COVID-19 vaccination
- If an operation provides an essential service, all employees therein do not necessarily qualify. Defer to job classifications.

NO, do not meet the frontline essential worker definition for 1B or occupational risk not > than general public (instead would be placed in 1c)

Occupational risk NOT > general population

- Freight railroad employees
- Certain distribution and supply chain truck drivers
- National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)/Be The Match couriers
- Homelessness service workers; Salvation Army workers
- Print and broadcast journalists
- Tow truck drivers
- Workers at Amazon.com
- Tech company that manufactures/calibrates critical measurement instruments, not medical setting
- Social services workers (enter homes to investigate child and elder abuse cases), not in congregate settings, or increased risk over community settings
- Non-medical in-home senior care (remember vaccinating workers does not protect the vulnerable clients)
- Disinfection services for businesses (exposure to surfaces low risk, not infected persons)
- Durable medical equipment vendor
- Veterinarians
- Electrical outage restoration personnel (linemen, systems operators or “dispatchers”)
- Wholesale distributors
- Truck drivers
- Healthcare supply chain (e.g., deliver PPE)
- Pest control
- Essential broadband workers
- Certain food and consumer product goods processing/production, logistics, maintenance, security, sanitation, and other employees who are not face-to-face with public

Do not meet frontline essential worker definition for 1B:

- Restaurant wait staff, cooks, delivery/order assembly personnel
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Do not meet frontline essential worker definition for 1B:

- Restaurant wait staff, cooks, delivery/order assembly personnel
- Rideshare drivers and food delivery

1. UNRESOLVED REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION IN 1B:

- Waste and Sanitation workers (public contact, possible infectious materials)
- Workers in the judicial system (both state and federal): occupational risk is generally NOT > general population in most court procedures, but there are some exceptions
- Recommendation to look at categories (i.e. education) rather than “splitting hairs”
 - 12 raised hands in favor of inclusion of upper level educators
 - 5 raised hands opposed to including upper level educators
- Decision to include as part of VAC recommendations
- Workers in the judicial system- inclusion in 1B
 - No votes in support of inclusion
- Waste and sanitation workers- inclusion in 1B
 - No votes in support of inclusion
- Correctional workers to qualify in 1a
- Law enforcement officials who do not provide medical services in the field are 1B

- Some hospitals ARE vaccinating law enforcement officers, including those who do not provide medical care
- Group consensus: Law enforcement officials who do not provide medical services in the field to remain in 1B
- State-to-state variation in when to move between phasing.
- Vote to combine phases 1b & 1c

Communications Strategies- Dr. Linda Bell

- Ongoing media briefings and continued communication efforts by Dr. Traxler, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Knoche, Dr. Bell and more
- South Carolina is performing better than the national average for vaccine utilization
- How to establish and message movement between phases
- Governor's announcement regarding January 15th cutoff for 1a
- Communications for vaccine access:
 - Working to create a weblink where health care providers can go to schedule an appointment
 - Recommendation to avoid the term "chain pharmacy" to imply exclusion of local and independently owned pharmacies
- Church group informal FAQs, many different groups including faith groups, YouTube shows, etc.
- Discussion of a centralized portal, 1-800 number, similar concepts
- Future meeting to include presentation of varied media and communications strategies and PIO efforts

Adjourn

Next meeting: Wednesday 1/13/2021 from 12-2pm