

# COVID-19 Vaccine Providers

## Phase 1B Medical Conditions Guidance

One of the primary goals of Ohio's Vaccination Program is to save lives. Ohioans born with or who have certain early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood are at a higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19. These individuals are eligible for vaccination during Phase 1B of COVID-19 vaccinations. The following guidance specific to this group of eligible Ohioans is for vaccine providers:

### **Phase 1B eligible medical conditions**

Ohioans born with or who have early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood, which put them at a higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19, are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. The following group of Ohioans, even though they are not age 65 or older, are eligible because they were born with or developed in childhood a severe condition that puts them at very high risk for dying from COVID-19.

- Sickle cell anemia.
- Down syndrome.
- Cystic fibrosis.
- Muscular dystrophy.
- Cerebral palsy.
- Spina bifida.
- People born with severe heart defects, requiring regular specialized medical care.
- People with severe type 1 diabetes, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
- Phenylketonuria (PKU), Tay-Sachs, and other rare, inherited metabolic disorders.
- Epilepsy with continuing seizures; hydrocephaly; microcephaly, and other severe neurological disorders.
- Turner syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other severe genetic disorders.
- People with severe asthma, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
- Alpha and beta thalassemia.
- Solid organ transplant candidates and recipients.

### **Eligibility timeline and vaccination process**

Vaccinations for this group of Ohioans is taking place in two groups. The first group included individuals at the highest risk who have both an intellectual or developmental disability AND a qualifying specified medical condition. The second group includes anyone with one of the specified qualifying medical conditions.

**Beginning Jan. 25, 2021: Individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability AND a qualifying medical condition listed above.**

### **How individuals who qualify can get the vaccine.**

- Local boards of developmental disabilities have been reaching out to those they know qualify under this eligibility category to coordinate vaccinations. These boards have been working with children's hospitals and some local health departments on scheduling.
- Individuals who believe they qualify but have not been contacted should reach out to their county developmental disabilities board to confirm eligibility and schedule an appointment. Ohioans in this category should not go to their local pharmacies for scheduling or vaccination.
- The vaccinations for Ohioans in this category will only be given at Local Health Departments or participating Children's Hospitals in conjunction with the local boards of developmental disabilities.

**Beginning Feb. 15, 2021: Ohioans with one of the qualifying conditions listed above are eligible for vaccination.**

**How individuals who qualify can get the vaccine.**

- Eligible Ohioans with one of the specific qualifying medical conditions can receive the vaccine from a **provider of their choice**.
- Those who have an intellectual or developmental disability AND a qualifying specified medical condition who have not yet received the vaccine should continue to contact their local boards of developmental disabilities to schedule appointments. These boards will continue to coordinate vaccinations for these individuals in partnership with local health departments or children's hospitals.

**Process for vaccine providers to confirm eligibility:**

- To help educate the public about which conditions qualify for vaccination, the [list of qualifying conditions](#) should be published on your websites. *See suggested sample text below.*
- Hospitals should proactively reach out to patients hospitalized in the past year for the qualifying condition to schedule these patients for vaccination.
- If an individual who has been hospitalized in the past year for the qualifying condition chooses to get vaccinated at an LHD or pharmacy, that person will be asked to confirm that they have one of the conditions listed, but do not need to name the specific condition.
- The State of Ohio is not requiring any additional documentation or proof of eligibility; however, providers may develop their own screening and monitoring procedures to evaluate eligibility. *See suggested sample scripts/forms below.*
- Providers should confirm with the patient that they have one of the qualifying conditions verbally or on screening or registration forms.
- Providers will not be required to collect or submit additional forms; however, patients falling into this group will be identified by providers submitting [TP/O Checklist data](#). By entering a patient with the TP/O of "Individuals with Congenital Disorders or Early in Life Conditions that Carried into Adulthood without IDD (TPV24)," providers confirm that they have verified the eligibility of that patient through a review of electronic health records or by verbal confirmation.

**Public education: Sample text for provider websites about eligibility**

**Phase 1B: Ohioans born with or who have early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood, which put them at a higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19**

**Eligibility date:** Beginning Feb. 15, 2021.

**Eligibility criteria:** The following group of Ohioans are included, even though they are not age 65 or older, because they were born with or developed in childhood a severe condition that puts them at very high risk for dying from COVID-19.

Sickle cell anemia.	Down syndrome.
Cystic fibrosis.	Muscular dystrophy.
Cerebral palsy.	Spina bifida.
People born with severe heart defects, requiring regular specialized medical care.	People with severe type 1 diabetes, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
Phenylketonuria (PKU), Tay-Sachs disease, and other rare, inherited metabolic disorders.	Epilepsy with continuing seizures; hydrocephaly; microcephaly; and other severe neurological disorders.
Turner syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other severe genetic disorders.	People with severe asthma, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
Alpha and beta thalassemia.	Solid organ transplant candidates and recipients.

## **Suggested scripts/forms for confirmation of eligibility**

### **EXAMPLE: Website or paper confirmation checkbox**

*If you are using an online or paper-based registration and/or screening process, this suggested text could be used for an eligibility confirmation form.*

**NOTE: If you elect to use a checkbox on your website or on any of your own forms or documents to confirm eligibility, you should ask patients only to confirm that they have a condition making them eligible, not which specific condition they have.**

### **Phase 1B: Ohioans born with or who have early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood, which put them at a higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19**

*The following group of Ohioans are eligible for vaccination because they were born with or developed in childhood a severe condition that puts them at very high risk for dying from COVID-19. Those conditions are:*

Sickle cell anemia.	Down syndrome.
Cystic fibrosis.	Muscular dystrophy.
Cerebral palsy.	Spina bifida.
People born with severe heart defects requiring regular specialized medical care.	People with severe type 1 diabetes, who have been hospitalized in the past year.
Phenylketonuria (PKU), Tay-Sachs disease, and other rare, inherited metabolic disorders.	Epilepsy with continuing seizures; hydrocephaly; microcephaly; and other severe neurological disorders.
Turner syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other severe genetic disorders.	People with severe asthma, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
Alpha and beta thalassemia.	Solid organ transplant candidates or recipients.

I confirm that I have one of the medical conditions listed above, and I am eligible to receive a vaccination as part of Ohio's Phase 1B Vaccination Program.

**EXAMPLE: Verbal confirmation sample script**

**Below you will find suggested language a staff member could read by phone or during screening to confirm eligibility.**

Under Ohio's Phase 1B, vaccine eligibility includes Ohioans born with or who have early childhood conditions that are carried into adulthood, which put them at higher risk for adverse outcomes due to COVID-19.

The following group of Ohioans are included, even though they are not age 65 or older, because they were born with or developed in childhood a severe condition that puts them at very high risk for dying from COVID-19.

**Do you confirm that you have one of the following medical conditions, and are eligible to receive a vaccination as part of Ohio's Phase 1B Vaccination Program? Please respond "yes" or "no" after I read the list of conditions:**

The qualifying medical conditions are:

- Sickle cell anemia.
- Down syndrome.
- Cystic fibrosis.
- Muscular dystrophy.
- Cerebral palsy.
- Spina bifida.
- People born with severe heart defects requiring regular specialized medical care.
- People with severe type 1 diabetes who have been hospitalized in the past year.
- Phenylketonuria (PKU), Tay-Sachs disease, and other rare, inherited metabolic disorders.
- Epilepsy with continuing seizures; hydrocephaly; microcephaly; and other severe neurological disorders.
- Turner syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, and other severe genetic disorders.
- People with severe asthma, who have been hospitalized for this in the past year.
- Alpha and beta thalassemia.
- Solid organ transplant candidates or recipients.

**Patient responds "yes" or "no."**

*Updated Feb. 18, 2021.*

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

*If you have any questions, please call the ODH Provider Call Center between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) or email [COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov). You also may visit the ODH [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Information Training page](#) for additional information and resources.*

**For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)**