



# COVID-19 Vaccine: What Public Health Jurisdictions and Dialysis Partners Need to Know

The federal government is partnering with dialysis organizations, local and state jurisdictions to increase access to [COVID-19 vaccines](#) for patients and healthcare personnel in outpatient dialysis clinics. This partnership complements existing jurisdictional efforts to ensure equitable and effective access to COVID-19 vaccines, and will increase availability of COVID-19 vaccines for patients in dialysis clinics. **These patients are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.**

## Dialysis Partnerships Support Rapid Vaccine Delivery

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has collaborated with the American Society of Nephrology and the Renal Healthcare Association to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines for patients receiving dialysis and their healthcare personnel.
- Two large dialysis partner organizations, DaVita Inc. and Fresenius Medical Care North America, have enrolled as COVID-19 vaccination providers to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines across dialysis clinics nationwide. Together, they operate approximately 83% of dialysis clinics in the United States. These organizations have extensive reach across the country and operational, logistical, IT infrastructure, and cold chain and pharmaceutical delivery capacity to serve as capable vaccination providers and federal partners.
- This partnership will also support the delivery of vaccines to other smaller clinics not owned by DaVita or Fresenius through a network administrator agreement.

## Federal Allocation Supports Vaccination in Dialysis Clinics

- A specific federal allocation of COVID-19 vaccines will be directed toward the dialysis vaccination effort.
- Distribution of federally allocated doses for dialysis clinics will start the week of March 29, 2021.
- The distribution will begin with DaVita and Fresenius facilities. As additional dialysis organizations and independent providers enroll in the network administrator agreement, they will be eligible to receive federal allocation of vaccine.



Visit [CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine: What Public Health Jurisdictions and Dialysis Partners Need to Know page](#) for more information on strategies for distributing federally allocated COVID-19 vaccines to dialysis clinics.



[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)

## Impact of Federal Allocation on Jurisdiction Vaccination Plans

- The federal allocation of COVID-19 vaccines provided for this effort is separate from jurisdictions' weekly allocations and will be deployed in coordination with jurisdictions.
- Dialysis clinics that receive a federal allocation will vaccinate any patients or healthcare providers who have not yet been vaccinated, in accordance with jurisdictional priority groups.
- CDC supports optimizing the use of all COVID-19 vaccine. The [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) recommends expanding vaccine availability to broader population groups when vaccine supply at a certain location is in danger of being unused. Dialysis clinics should use this guidance when making plans to ensure no dose is wasted.
- Providing vaccine to all eligible patients and staff at one time decreases the possibility of wastage and may be easier for a facility to implement successfully.

## Ongoing Jurisdiction Support for Dialysis Clinics Is Important

- Jurisdictions should be aware that the size of this federal allocation is limited. While this effort will leverage a variety of strategies, not all dialysis clinics will receive vaccines, and clinics receiving vaccines might get them at different times.
- If your jurisdiction has already allocated vaccine doses for dialysis patients and healthcare personnel, you should continue executing vaccine distribution plans to additional populations according to federal and local guidelines. Continuing to leverage partnerships with dialysis clinics will help protect people at high risk in your jurisdiction.
- It is critical for jurisdictions to maintain contact with local dialysis clinics to understand their ongoing efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to patients and healthcare personnel and to provide support as needed.
- After this effort has concluded, it is anticipated that dialysis clinics might have ongoing needs for small allocations of COVID-19 vaccines.

### How Ordering and Distribution of Federal Allocation Will Work

- Dialysis organizations track how many patients and staff at each clinic have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Using this information, enrolled dialysis centers can order vaccine for their clinics using the Vaccine Provider Ordering Portal (VPop).
- Federal allocations for dialysis clinics will be shipped directly to the ordering clinics.

### Where to Report or Find Allocation and Administration Data

- All dialysis clinics receiving federal allocations are required to report inventory and wastage to VPop and patient administration information to the jurisdiction's immunization information system (IIS).
- DaVita and Fresenius will also report administration data for the clinics they operate directly to CDC. Clinics not operated by DaVita or Fresenius will only report vaccine administration data to their jurisdictions' IISs.
- Jurisdictions will be able to view vaccine orders, shipments, deliveries, and patient administration data from the dialysis clinics administering federal allocations in their jurisdictions.