



Yakutat Department of Public Safety
Incident Command Covid-19
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INCIDENT COMMAND CLARIFICATION OF VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

THE INCIDENT COMMAND, YAKUTAT COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC (YCHC), YAKUTAT TLINGIT TRIBE (YTT) COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION, AND THE CBY CITY COUNCIL & ADMINISTRATION WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENCE WHILE YCHC STAFF WORK DILIGENTLY TO NAVIGATE THE STATE OF ALASKA AND CDC GUIDELINES AND POLICIES, WHILE WORKING TO GET THE AVAILABLE COVID-19 VACCINES ADMINISTERED TO ELIGIBLE AND WILLING COMMUNITY MEMBERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ACCORDING TO STATE OF ALASKA (SOA) OFFICIALS, YCHC RECEIVED 100 DOSES OF VACCINES WHICH INCLUDED 45 FROM THE SOA ALLOCATION OF THE MODERNA VACCINE WHICH COVERS SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF ELDERS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND FRONTLINE STAFF, AS WELL AS 55 DOSES FROM THE NATIONAL INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) ALLOCATION FOR THE TRIBE.

THE TWO ALLOTTED VACCINE SHIPMENTS FALL UNDER TWO SETS OF SEPARATE RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR HOW THE VACCINES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED. THE SOA HAS STRICT RULES AND GUIDELINES SET BY THE STATE'S COVID ADVISORY BOARD THAT RESTRICT THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SOA VACCINES TO SET TIERS OR GROUPS AND IS REPORTED TO THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THE YTT COUNCIL HAS BLANKET SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE HOW THE TRIBE'S ALLOTTED IHS VACCINES WILL BE PRIORITIZED FOR THE BENEFIT OF TRIBAL BENEFICIARIES AND IS REPORTED TO THE IHS THROUGH THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

THE CDC ESTIMATES THAT THE VACCINES WILL BE WIDELY AVAILABLE IN THE SUMMER OF 2021. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE SOA'S VACCINES MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS AND MUST FALL WITHIN THE POSTED ELIGIBLE TIER OR GROUP SET BY THE ALASKA VACCINE ALLOCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AVAAC.)

ELIGIBILITY FOR IHS ALLOCATIONS FALL WITHIN YTT COUNCIL'S DIRECTION. LAST WEEK, THE YTT COUNCIL MET TO DISCUSS GUIDELINES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE IHS ALLOTTED VACCINES. THE YTT COUNCIL PRIORITIZED ELDERS 55 AND OLDER AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE POSITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY, PRIORITIZING THOSE WITH HIGH-RISK COMORBIDITIES. THE COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZED YCHC STAFF TO UTILIZE PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT AS NEEDED IN MAKING DECISIONS REGARDING ADMINISTRATION OF COVID VACCINATIONS BASED ON WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY.

THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT A PORTION OF THE IHS VACCINES MAY BE ADMINISTERED TO TRIBAL HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS (EMS, FIRE & POLICE) WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE FOR THE SOA VACCINES, SO THAT YCHC COULD EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF SOME OF THE SOA DOSES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT FALL INTO THE SOA PHASE 1A ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

ON BEHALF OF THE INCIDENT COMMAND AS A WHOLE, WE WOULD LIKE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO THE YAKUTAT TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR LOOKING OUT FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IN SETTING OUT THEIR GUIDELINES FOR THE LIMITED SUPPLY OF COVID-19 VACCINES.

CURRENTLY YCHC HAS STARTED THE PROCESS OF SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS FOR AVAILABLE VACCINATIONS TO COVER MORE HEALTH CARE WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS 65 YEARS AND OLDER. YCHC HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT THE SECOND DISTRIBUTIONS OF THE JANUARY SOA AND IHS VACCINES WILL START BEING SHIPPED OUT TO THE COMMUNITIES STATEWIDE AND ANTICIPATE YAKUTAT'S SHIPMENT TO ARRIVE ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 15TH.

John Waldron
Incident Command Covid-19