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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

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## Governor Laura Kelly Announces Finalized Vaccine Distribution Order

**TOPEKA** – Governor Laura Kelly today announced her administration’s final COVID-19 distribution order for population groups in Kansas. The vaccine will be administered in five phases, beginning with those most at risk of contracting or becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 and ending with all Kansans at large.

“These COVID-19 vaccination phase groups were created using guidance from national and state public health experts and with input from the Kansas Coronavirus Vaccine Advisory Council, or COVAC, which represents a diverse group of populations in Kansas,” **Governor Laura Kelly said.** “My priority remains providing every Kansan with updates and information on vaccine schedules as we get them and to get everyone vaccinated as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

The Kansas Coronavirus Advisory Council, representing a diverse group of Kansans statewide, is part of Governor Kelly’s commitment to maximizing benefits, minimizing harm, and striving for equity, justice, and fairness when it comes to when the vaccine will be made available to which Kansans.

The five phases of the order are as follows:

### Phase 1:

- Health care workers
- Residents or patients in long-term care facilities and senior housing
- Workers critical to pandemic response continuity

*\*Phase 1 groups have already begun to receive vaccines*

**Phase 2:**

- Persons aged 65 and older
  
- High-contact critical workers necessary to maintain systems, assets, and activities that are vital to the state security, the economy or public health, or who interact with large numbers of contacts and job-related COVID-19 exposure. COVID-19 risk is associated with the likelihood of infecting oneself or spreading the virus. Factors that increase risk include proximity, type of contact, duration of contacts and challenges to implement protective measures. This includes:
  - o Firefighters, police officers, first responders, and correction officers
  - o Grocery store workers and food services
  - o K-12 and childcare workers, including teachers, custodians, drivers, and other staff
  - o Food processing, including meat processing plants
  - o Large-scale aviation manufacturing plants
  - o Transportation workers
  - o Workers in retail, agriculture, supply of critical services or materials for COVID-19 response, the U.S. Postal Service, and Department of motor vehicles
  
- Those living or working in licensed congregate settings and other special care or congregate environments where social distancing is not possible, including:
  - o Homeless shelters
  - o Congregate childcare institutions
  - o Emergency shelters or safe houses
  - o Corrections facilities
  - o Behavioral health institutions

**Phase 3:**

- Those aged 16-64 with serious medical conditions that increase the risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including:
  - o Cancer
  - o Chronic kidney disease
  - o Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
  - o Down Syndrome
  - o Heart conditions like cardiomyopathies
  - o Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant
  - o Type 2 diabetes
  - o Sickle cell disease
  - o Pregnant patients
  
- Other non-health care workers in critical infrastructure who cannot work remotely, including:
  - o Agricultural and food workers not included in previous phases
  - o Workers performing in-person activities indoors, in critical manufacturing, not included in previous phases. This includes aviation and production of critical supplies for the COVID response

- o Utility workers
- o Social service and government workers not included in previous phases
- o Logistics workers, such as truck transportation workers, couriers and others
- o Water and wastewater workers
- o Shelter and housing workers, finance workers
- o Information technology and communications workers

**Phase 4:**

- Those aged 16-64 with other medical conditions that increase the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 such as:
  - o Asthma
  - o Cerebrovascular disease
  - o Cystic Fibrosis
  - o Immunocompromised state from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, or use of immune weakening medicines
  - o Neurologic conditions such as dementia
  - o Liver disease
  - o Pulmonary fibrosis
  - o Type 1 diabetes
  - o Obesity and severe obesity

**Phase 5:**

- The rest of the population 16 and older
- Potentially children, dependent upon further research on the effectiveness and risks associated with vaccinating kids

[View a visual representation of the distribution order here.](#)

[View informational slides regarding vaccine distribution here.](#)

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