

February 3, 2021

Kelly Garcia, Interim Director
Dr. Caitlin Pedati, State Public Health Medical Director
Iowa Department of Public Health
Des Moines, IA

Re: Infectious Disease Advisory Council (IDAC)

Director Garcia & Dr. Pedati:

IDAC members met on Monday, January 25th to review the draft recommendations for Phase 1C that were discussed during the January 14th meeting of IDAC. During the January 14th meeting, IDAC voted to recommend the following populations for Phase 1C:

- Individuals 65 years of age and older.
- Individuals 64 years of age and younger with medical conditions that are or may be an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. See CDC recommendations at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

In the week following the January 14th meeting, IDPH further modified the IDPH standing order that was updated on January 21, 2021. The modification of the shortage expanded the age group from individuals 75 years of age and older (as originally proposed by IDAC) to include individuals 65 years of age and older. In addition, the updated shortage order provided additional prioritization guidance with the introduction of Tiers 1 – 5 to assist local vaccine providers in prioritizing their vaccination efforts.

Because of the modifications to the vaccine shortage order issued on January 21, 2021, IDAC discussed whether to reconsider additional priority groups for Phase 1C. IDAC reiterated the factors provided in the IDAC letter to you dated January 11, 2021. These factors include:

- Uncertainty in the timing of increased vaccine availability in Iowa.
- A vaccine shortage continues to challenge vaccination strategies.
- A large number of Iowans included in the ACIP recommendations, as drafted, that exceed current vaccine allocations.
- A desire to prioritize individuals that are vulnerable to high risk of exposure or severity of illness.

IDAC is recommending a simple modification of the recommendation for Phase 1C to adjust for the addition of individuals 65 years of age and older to Phase 1B, and make a final recommendation for Phase 1C as follows:

- Individuals 64 years of age and younger with medical conditions that are or may be an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. See CDC recommendations at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

Furthermore, IDAC members suggest the remaining priority populations identified in the ACIP recommendations for Phase 1b and 1c have negligible delineations in risks of exposure and risks of consequences from COVID-19. This, coupled with the projected duration to complete Phase 1B and 1C vaccination efforts, has led to the decision to offer no further prioritization of populations.

The Iowa Department of Public Health should remain focused on communicating the need for increase vaccine allocations from our federal partners, and providing resources to support local vaccination efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Sharp, Chair
Infectious Disease Advisory Council