

PRESS RELEASE



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“First COVID-19 Vaccine Shipment for CNMI Expected Thursday”

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) and the CNMI COVID-19 Taskforce would like to update the community on the COVID-19 Vaccine status for the CNMI.

The CNMI is expecting to receive the first order of COVID-19 Vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech by Thursday, December 16, 2020. The FDA-authorized vaccine began to ship out to all 50 states and U.S. territories early this week. The vaccine made by Pfizer/BioNTech is to be given in two doses, 21 days apart.

The first shipment of vaccines will be administered to CHCC staff, responder agencies, and private clinics providing health related services including dental, hemodialysis, pharmacy, behavioral, home care, optometry, physical therapy and rehabilitation. Individuals included in this group should expect registration information forthcoming from CHCC.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available to everyone living in the CNMI through a 3-phased approach. In line with the CNMI's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, approved by Operation Warp Speed (OWS) and US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the CNMI implementation plan will be (based on recommended guidance for priority and vaccine availability):

- Phase 1 – An estimated 1,600 people working in healthcare settings, first responder agencies, and vulnerable populations.
- Phase 2 – Expanding to essential workers and general population. The essential worker population includes but is not limited to: Private Pharmacy Staff, PSS Instructional Staff, PSS School Support Staff, PSS School Administrators, and Child Care workers.
- Phase 3 – Continuation of general population and possible vaccination opportunity for children under the age of 15.

As the CNMI COVID-19 Vaccination plans are operationalized, the CHCC Outpatient Clinics and Hospital services will continue to be available as normal.

For more information about the CNMI's COVID-19 Vaccine efforts please visit www.VaccinateCNMI.com

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html>

