

23 JUNE 2022

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 FIVE AND UNDER (U5) VACCINATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| Executive Summary..... | ES-1 |
| 1.0: Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1: Mission..... | 1 |
| 1.2: Objective | 1 |
| 1.3: Overview of Vaccine Accessibility Survey Results..... | 1 |
| 2.0: Concept of Operations..... | 2 |
| 2.1: Vaccine Administration | 3 |
| 3.0: Organization..... | 4 |
| 3.1: Roles and Responsibilities..... | 4 |
| 4.0: Coordination | 5 |
| 4.1: Requests for Assistance | 5 |
| 4.2: Stakeholder Communications..... | 5 |
| 4.3: Reporting Data | 5 |
| Conclusion..... | 6 |
| Acronyms | 7 |
| References | 8 |
| Promulgation Statement..... | 10 |
| Record of Changes | 10 |

Executive Summary

The Hawaii Five and Under (U5) Vaccination Strategic Plan provides an overview of the necessary requirements to implement a successful statewide vaccination effort for children from six-months through five-years-old. The Department of Health (DOH) recommends stakeholders use this plan to guide their vaccine and outreach efforts for children aged six-months through five-years-old within the State of Hawaii.

On 17 June 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency use authorizations (EUs) for the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for use in children as young as six months of age. The FDA determined the known and potential benefits of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines outweigh the known and potential



risks. On 18 June 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children six-months through four years of age and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for children six-months through five years of age.

There are an estimated 80,054 children aged six-months through four-years-old in Hawaii. DOH set an initial goal of vaccinating approximately 30%,^{1,2} or 24,016, of the children in that age group. DOH recognizes administering vaccines to children under five years of age will require a slightly different approach than the COVID-19 vaccination program for older children, teens, and adults. Based on survey results, DOH anticipates parents/guardians prefer to have their children vaccinated by their own pediatrician.³ However, not all pediatricians in Hawaii are enrolled as COVID-19 vaccination providers. In addition, most pharmacies are unable to vaccinate children under three years of age and some pharmacies and other providers have notified DOH that they will not participate in the U5 vaccination effort. Finally, some parents/guardians will be reluctant to have their young children participate in the COVID-19 vaccination program. The U5 vaccination effort will require a robust public education and outreach initiative to build confidence among parents/guardians and address parent/guardian concerns.

¹ A [survey](#) published by the Kaiser Family Foundation shows that parents of children six-month to four-years-old may be reluctant to vaccinate their children, stating that "About three in 10 parents said they will get their children vaccinated as soon as they are eligible."

² [Parents think through whether to vaccinate their kids under 5 - The Washington Post](#)

³ <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xt5HOLji-U0m0FikCqoaEGnYeUiHuopLnLs1JHhRF4RUMVFRSzhUMIRRRlhQVDNSTIBPM044UDBDNS4u>

1.0: Introduction

1.1: Mission

Implement a robust and effective operational structure to conduct outreach, encourage vaccination, and manage the rapid procurement, distribution, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines to the six-month through five-year-old population.

1.2: Objective

The U5 Vaccination Strategic Plan objective is to equitably distribute and administer vaccines to the six-month through five-year-old population. Three overarching critical tasks drive the execution of the Hawaii COVID-19 U5 Vaccination Strategic Plan efforts (see **Figure 1**).

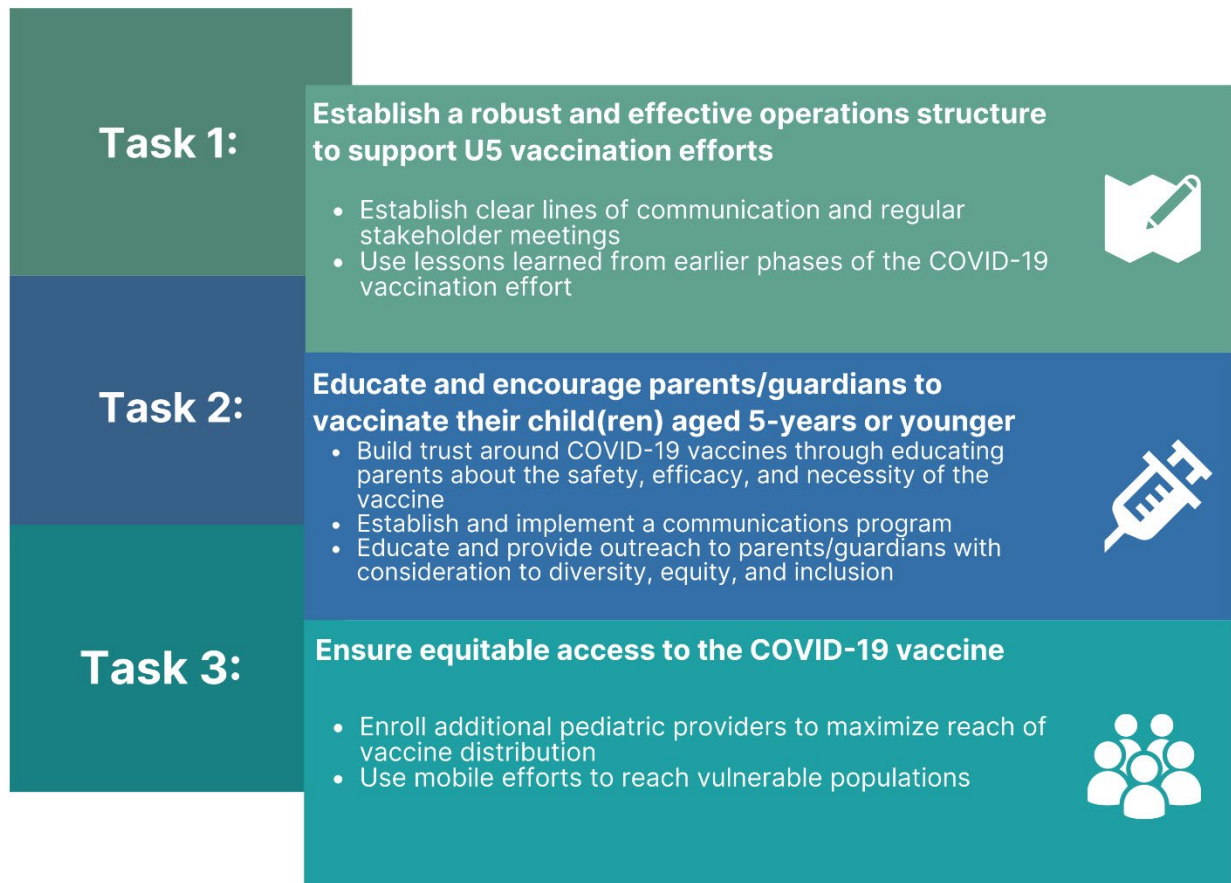


Figure 1: U5 Vaccination Critical Tasks

1.3: Overview of Vaccine Accessibility Survey Results

To address the challenges relating to vaccination provider interest and enrollment, DOH created a vaccine accessibility survey and disseminated this survey to a list of approximately 300 potential providers over a four-month period. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain interest in offering vaccination to the U5 population, collect vaccination site information, and gauge whether providers intended to display vaccine availability to persons outside their existing patient population on the hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine website. As of 20 June, over 100 COVID-19 Vaccination Providers will support the U5 vaccination effort.

2.0: Concept of Operations

DOH identified three operational phases for the U5 effort. These phases will take place concurrently, with efforts shifting from planning to education/outreach and operations (see Figure 2).

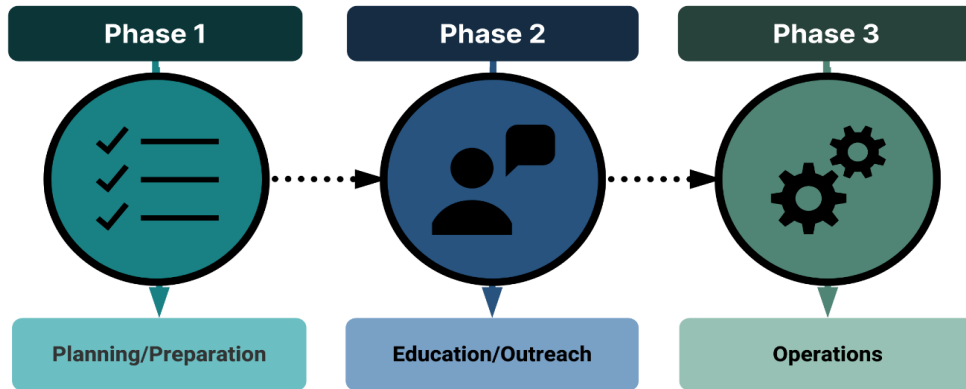


Figure 2: Operational Phases

This Strategic Plan incorporates numerous planning considerations (see Figure 3).











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|  Local and national data and trends |  Eligible populations |
|  Lessons learned from earlier COVID-19 vaccine phases |  Vaccine provider site storage and handling capacity |
|  Existing partners and vaccination site locations |  Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) |
|  Timing of vaccine availability |  Cultural sensitivities |
|  Geography |  Number of providers available to support U5 vaccination efforts |

Figure 3: U5 Planning Considerations

The U5 vaccination effort will involve administering vaccines simultaneously through independent providers (i.e., pediatricians), federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and other medical facilities. DOH and/or stakeholders may also utilize mobile vaccination efforts at public and/or private Pre-K schools and other locations based on provider availability. Utilizing multiple provider types and locations ensures the most equitable and flexible access to vaccines. The current vaccination capacity of jurisdiction and Federal agency providers exceeds the estimated capacity needed to equitably distribute vaccines to the population, including those in rural areas and homebound populations. However, not all pediatric providers are enrolled to administer COVID-19 vaccines, which will limit options for some parents/guardians. Therefore, additional efforts may be needed such as creating informal networks of providers to refer their patients to other practices that are participating in the U5 effort. DOH may coordinate vaccination efforts with COVID-19 testing operations to capitalize on infrastructure established to support testing.

2.1: Vaccine Administration

DOH distribution of vaccines will ensure providers have enough doses needed to adhere to recommended vaccine timelines (see Figure 4).

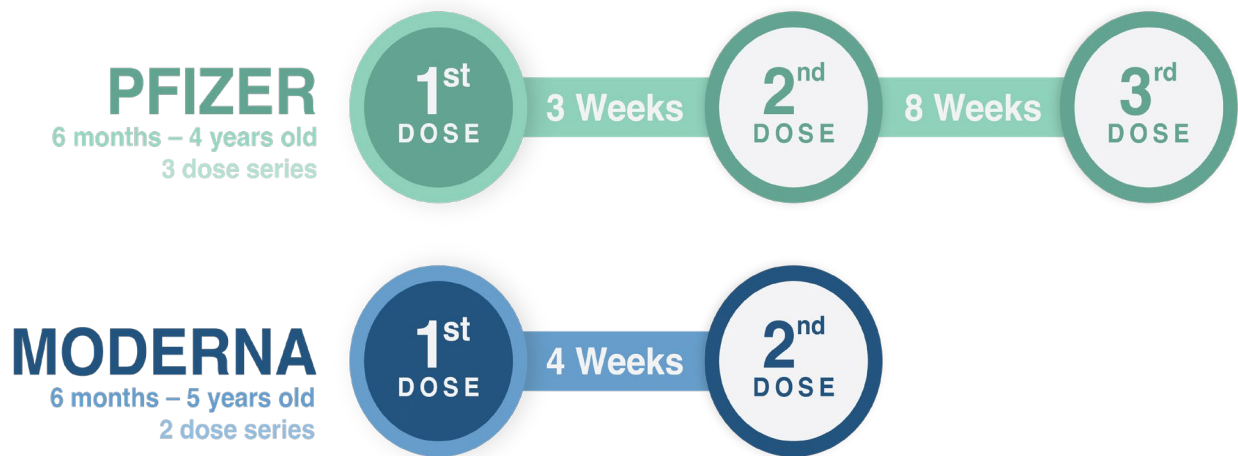


Figure 4: Vaccine Administration Timelines

3.0: Organization

DOH is responsible for operational oversight of the U5 vaccination effort and supports coordination efforts in each County through daily, weekly, and monthly coordination meetings.⁴ This section highlights the roles and responsibilities of Federal, State, local, private, and nonprofit partners.

3.1: Roles and Responsibilities

a. Federal

- i. Procure vaccines
- ii. Provide technical assistance and guidance for State vaccination planning
- iii. Distribute vaccines based on requests from DOH, as well as directly to vaccination providers through Federal allocations

b. State

- i. Provide overall coordination for the Hawaii U5 vaccination effort, including the following:
 1. Communications and outreach efforts in support of the Hawaii U5 vaccination effort
 2. Resource requests (i.e., translation services, facilities, non-medical support, etc.)
 3. Facility use agreements (as needed)
 4. Manage vaccine distribution efforts based on requests from providers for State-controlled allocations
- ii. Encourage provider enrollment statewide. **NOTE:** Healthcare facilities and primary care physicians that wish to enroll as COVID-19 vaccine providers will either need to complete the **COVID-19 Independent Provider Enrollment Survey Version 2.0** or follow DOH guidance on next steps to enroll if they have already indicated their willingness to become a provider. Providers can access the survey [here](#)
- iii. Submit and/or respond to requests for information/assistance (RFI/RFA)

c. Local

- i. Support communications and outreach efforts
- ii. Support vaccination site operations
- iii. Provide facility access for privately-operated facilities (as needed)
- iv. Coordinate facility use agreements

d. Private and Nonprofit Sector

- i. Support communications and outreach efforts
- ii. Receive, store, and administer vaccines following State and CDC guidance
- iii. Support vaccination site operations
- iv. Provide facility access
- v. Provide incentives to encourage vaccinations (i.e., coupons, excused absences)
- vi. Coordinate facility use agreement

⁴ Refer to the [Hawaii COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#) for additional information regarding reporting requirements and roles and responsibilities.

4.0: Coordination

4.1: Requests for Assistance

DOH uses an established process to assign and track requests for assistance and information (RFAs and RFIs⁵) through the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). County/State agencies and organizations may submit an RFA/RFI to DOH to coordinate support for vaccination operations and information in accordance with procedures provided in the Hawaii Emergency Operations Plan and guidance from HI-EMA specific to COVID-19.

4.2: Stakeholder Communications

The U5 vaccination effort will continue to leverage existing coordinating bodies, as well as existing standing or ad hoc working groups, to support U5 vaccination efforts as needed (see **Figure 6**). DOH selected stakeholders from organizations to support the U5 vaccination effort based on their expertise, role, active participation, and contributions throughout the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. The role of the coordinating bodies in **Figure 6** is to engage providers to effectively offer and increase access to a wide variety of vaccination locations. The role of the working groups is to support key activities related to reviewing vaccine data for children five and under, distributing critical communications, and reaching parents/guardians of critical populations with information and assistance.

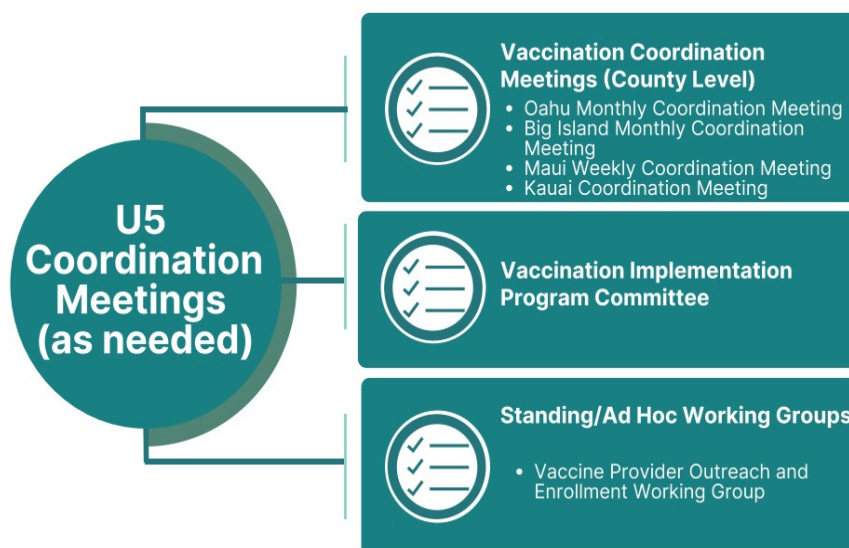


Figure 5: Coordinating Bodies and Standing Ad Hoc Working Groups

4.3: Reporting Data

COVID-19 vaccination providers will continue to use the Hawaii Immunization Registry (HIR)⁶ for the U5 Vaccination effort. Providers will continue to implement the data reporting requirements outlined within the Hawaii COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and provide timely information to DOH, especially regarding mobile vaccination efforts (**NOTE:** DOH maintains a comprehensive list of all mobile vaccination efforts to include doses administered).

⁵ [State of Hawai'i EOP – Fall 2019 \(hawaii.gov\)](https://www.hawaii.gov/eop/)

⁶ [Disease Outbreak Control Division | Hawaii Immunization Registry \(HIR\)](https://www.hawaii.gov/doh/divisions/disease-outbreak-control/); NOTE: DOH directed providers to transition from using the Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) to HIR in June 2022.

Conclusion

The U5 Vaccination Strategic Plan provides an overview of DOH's intent to equitably distribute and administer vaccines to children under five statewide. DOH, in partnership with stakeholders, recognizes the importance of vaccinations, education, and outreach and will utilize this plan as a framework for vaccinating children under five residing in Hawaii.

Acronyms

| | |
|---------------|---|
| CDC | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention |
| DOH | Hawaii Department of Health |
| EUA | Emergency Use Authorization |
| FDA | Food and Drug Administration |
| FQHC | Federally Qualified Health Center |
| HI-EMA | Hawaii Emergency Management Agency |
| HIPAA | Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act |
| HIR | Hawaii Immunization Registry |
| PREP | Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act |
| RFA | Request for Assistance |
| RFI | Request for Information |
| SVI | Social Vulnerability Index |
| U5 | Five and Under |
| VAMS | Vaccine Administration Management System |

References

CDC: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA):

<https://www.cdc.gov/php/publications/topic/hipaa.html>

COVID-19 Data & Alerts - Hawaii DOH: Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 (hawaiicovid19.com):

<https://hawaiicovid19.com/data-dashboard/>

COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Operational Guidance Jurisdiction Operations (cdc.gov):

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

Disease Outbreak Control Division: COVID-19 Become a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider (hawaii.gov):

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/become-a-covid-19-vaccine-provider/>

Disease Outbreak Control Division: Hawaii Immunization Registry: <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/about-us/programs/hawaii-immunization-registry-hir/>

DOH COVID-19 Independent Provider Enrollment Survey v2: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F5ZZJ8Z>

DOH: Hawaii Office of Vital Statistics: Preliminary Vital Statistics for 2021:

<https://health.hawaii.gov/vitalstatistics/preliminary-vital-statistics-for-2021/>

FDA Approves Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/spikevax-and-moderna-covid-19-vaccine>

FDA Approves Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

Hawaii Data Collaborative Hawaii Policy Map: <https://www.hawaiidata.org/policymap>

Hawaii Department of Education: <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

Kaiser Family Foundation: COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor -January 2022 Parents and Kids Update:

<https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/poll-finding/kff-covid-19-vaccine-monitor-january-2022-parents-and-kids-update/>

Pfizer-BioNTech Initiates Rolling Submission of its Emergency Use Authorization for the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Six Months to Four-Years-Old: <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-initiate-rolling-submission-emergency>

Pfizer-BioNTech Updates its Rolling Submission for Emergency Use Authorization of the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children: <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-provide-update-rolling-submission>

State of Hawaii COVID-19 Vaccination Plan (October 2020): https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Hawaii-COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan_Initial-Draft_101620.pdf

State of Hawaii Department of Human Services: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/>

State of Hawaii Emergency Operations Plan (2019): <https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/files/2020/02/Hawaii-State-EOP-Fall-2019-Published.pdf>

State of Hawaii Executive Office on Early Learning: <http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/>

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendations for Use of the COVID-19 Vaccine in Children Aged 5-11: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7045e1.htm>

The Washington Post: Coronavirus Vaccination May Soon be Available for Children Younger Than 5, Prompting Elation and Questions: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/02/02/parents-options-vaccines-kids-under-5/>

The Washington Post: Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Could be Available by the End of February: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/01/31/coronavirus-vaccine-children-under-5/>

U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey 5 Year Data (2019): <https://www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/acs-5year.html>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Guidance for PREP Act Coverage: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>

Promulgation Statement

This COVID-19 Five and Under (U5) Vaccination Strategic Plan is hereby accepted for implementation and supersedes all previous editions.

 _____ June 24, 2022

Elizabeth A. Char, M.D. FACEP, FAAEM
Hawaii Department of Health
Director

DATE

Record of Changes

| Change # | Date | Remarks |
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