

OHA Seeks COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee Members

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way we live, work, and go about our lives. As you may have heard, several potential vaccines are being tested and are estimated to become available in the coming weeks and months. Oregon will distribute safe, effective vaccines once available. Community members who participated in webinars on November 18 told OHA their thoughts, perceptions, and priorities about a COVID vaccine. If you did not participate in one of these webinars and would like to share your thoughts on COVID vaccines, you can do so by completing a short, anonymous survey available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). We are using this input to design community engagement around vaccines that addresses your top questions and priorities.

Oregon has developed a [draft COVID-19 vaccine plan](#) for the way vaccines could be allocated and distributed. OHA is establishing a **Vaccine Advisory Committee** to create a vaccine distribution plan that centers equity. To work toward eliminating health inequities and bringing this pandemic to an end, OHA must share power with those communities most impacted and often left out. The goal of the Vaccine Advisory Committee is to co-create a vaccine distribution plan that centers the experiences of populations where the disease is systemically spreading, including communities of color, tribal communities and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We are sharing this opportunity with community partners so that anyone who may be interested has a chance to learn more and, if they wish, to apply.

Scope: The Vaccine Advisory Committee will work with OHA to co-create a final vaccine distribution plan that prioritizes communities most impacted by COVID-19 and those impacted by past and current health inequities.

Duties: The Vaccine Advisory Committee will create an equity-based ethical framework to guide decisions on prioritization and allocation of vaccine. It will develop communication and community engagement strategies to build trust and increase confidence in COVID vaccines.

Approach: The Vaccine Advisory Committee will use a shared-leadership approach where communities are involved and actively engaged in the decision-making process from the beginning.

Out of Scope: Some elements of Oregon's vaccination strategy are pre-determined by the federal government and not able to be changed. Others may be up to health systems and outside the purview of OHA. These elements will be clearly communicated to the Vaccine Advisory Committee.

Membership: The Vaccine Advisory Committee will be assembled to ensure a representative committee designed to address health inequities seen in COVID-19 and to engage delivery system partners. Two main groups are sought for membership:

- Organizations and community members who can speak to community needs, especially communities of color, tribal communities and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Partners engaged in vaccine delivery, such as hospitals, EMS, pharmacies, and healthcare providers.

Meetings: Members will be expected to attend a three-hour initial meeting during the week of January 4 (date and time to be announced) and one- to two-hour weekly meetings through January and February, with continued regular meetings throughout the spring. The committee will continue operations throughout the COVID-19 vaccination process in Oregon. Meetings will be held virtually and will include accommodations for members to participate fully, such as language interpretation and ASL. Members will be paid for their time.

Are you interested in serving on this committee? [Fill out this form](#) by **December 14**. If you have questions or need assistance completing the survey, please contact the [Community Engagement Team](#). Leaders from OHA's Public Health Division and Community Engagement Team will select members and communicate back to all applicants the following week. Members will be selected to ensure community representation, healthcare delivery expertise, geographic diversity, and lived experience. Please share this opportunity with anyone else you know who may be interested.