COVID-19 Vaccine Safety, Implementation, Equity & Ethics

*Updated: September 28, 2020*

CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) continues to hold monthly emergency meetings to assist in accelerated COVID-19 vaccine development.

Traditional safety monitoring systems (e.g. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, or VAERS) will be enhanced to conduct active surveillance in early vaccine recipients, obtain vaccination and safety monitoring data from health care and long-term care facilities, and use National Healthcare Safety Network sites for enhanced reporting.

State and local health departments have been given a playbook by which to prepare for a phased rollout of a vaccine. Pilot sites requested additional resources and assistance with logistics, among other requests. Most importantly, health departments are emphasizing building public confidence in a vaccine. CDC is providing assistance to states for planning purposes. More information is included in the Department of Health and Human Services’ recently released [Strategy for Distributing COVID-19 Vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/distribution/strategy.html) and the [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/distribution/interim-playbook.html).

ACIP also reviewed stark disparities in COVID-19 epidemiology data based on CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). CDC analysis found that SVI correlated with COVID-19 hotspots, driven primarily by race/ethnicity and housing composition, meaning more crowded living spaces including multi-unit dwellings. This data is helping to inform the development of a framework for equitable allocation of a vaccine, including priority populations, and ACIP recognizes the need for clear national guidance and local flexibility in implementation based on the best available data.

IDSA will continue to monitor ACIP activities. Please contact Haley Payne, Public Health Policy Manager, at [hpayne@idsociety.org](mailto:hpayne@idsociety.org) with any questions.