



CDC Makes Progress in Vaccine Planning, Distribution, Implementation

Updated: August 17, 2020

A potential vaccine for COVID-19 was the topic of discussion for the July meeting of CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group. Drs. Carol Baker and Jeff Duchin, IDSA's ACIP Liaisons, participated in the meeting that included a review of the epidemiology of COVID-19 to identify potential target populations for vaccination and develop vaccine policy options. Importantly, they reported that two products, vaccine candidates from Moderna and Pfizer, are in Phase 3 trials.

The working group is refining its vaccine prioritization framework, basing it on lessons learned from the H1N1 influenza framework, and is proposing prioritizing critical health care workers followed by other health care workers, essential workers and high-risk populations. The working group emphasized the need for transparency and equity considerations in decision making.

Additionally, the National Academy of Medicine has formed a committee to develop a framework to guide policymakers in the equitable allocation of a COVID-19 vaccine. The working group will continue to advocate for the primacy of CDC and ACIP in recommendations for vaccination and distribution, including in planning state and local implementation.

CDC emphasized need to begin state/local vaccine implementation planning. Considerations include: one vs. two dose series, products not interchangeable; varying presentations; vaccine efficacy and adverse event profile in different populations; varying cold-chain requirements; need to address use in children and pregnant women; need for socially distanced vaccination practices; communication and education including concern related to public trust and related vaccine safety considerations.

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