

LTBB COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This planning document is a living fluid document that will change and be updated as circumstances require.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has been ongoing since December 2019 and has impacted every part of our Tribal Community and the greater community, including the way we live, gather, work, and interact with each other. COVID-19 vaccines present the best opportunity to fight this virus and to protect our Community. Currently, LTBB is planning for when COVID-19 vaccines are available to provide to our people. Below is a summary of the planning that is occurring:

A. COVID-19 Vaccine Sourcing:

The Health Director and Medical Director determined that LTBB would collaborate with IHS to receive the COVID vaccines. LTBB could have chosen to receive vaccinations from the State of Michigan or IHS. IHS has been very responsive through the pandemic and provided many resources to LTBB during this time. Importantly, IHS has one population to focus on, Native Americans, and the Tribe will benefit from getting vaccines directly from IHS. LTBB continues to have a supportive and cooperative relationship with the State of MI and our local health department.

B. COVID-19 Vaccines

Currently, Pfizer and Moderna have vaccines that have been submitted to FDA for consideration for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Both vaccines require a first dose and then a second dose three to four weeks later. Our tentative plans are made on the presumption that these are the vaccines that will be first available. The first round of vaccine doses could be received and administered in December.

C. COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force (CVTF)

The LTBB Health Department has formed a COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force (CVTF), which is coordinating the vaccination planning and administration. The CVTF includes the Health Director, Medical Director, Chief Dentist/Infection Control Officer, Nurse/Clinic Manager, Chief Pharmacist, Assistant Health Director, COVID Nurse, Health IT Manager, Clinical Applications Coordinator, and HD Office Administrator.

D. Phased Approach for Vaccination Administration

Initial supplies of vaccines will be insufficient to meet the needs of our entire Community, so a phased approach based on priority groups will be utilized. As more vaccine becomes available, vaccination efforts will be expanded until eventually all individuals in our Tribal Community will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine. Outreach will be done to the priority groups to determine what individuals want to receive the vaccination when it is available to them.

The CVTF developed a prioritization plan and recommended to the LTBB Emergency Management Team (EMT), who adjusted and approved the final prioritization list on December 7, 2020.

The LTBB COVID-19 Vaccination Prioritization List

1. Health Department Staff (65)
2. Law Enforcement Staff / Conservation Officers / Safety & Emergency Manager (20)
3. Elders 55 plus with high risk conditions (estimated 250)
4. LTBB Elected Officials / Chief Judge (for government continuity) (12)
5. OCR / Biindigen Staff (estimated 350)
6. Elders 55 plus in 27 County Service Area with no high risk conditions (estimated 320)
 - a. Age 65+
 - b. Age 55-65
7. LTBB Citizens age 18-54 with high risk conditions in 27 County Service Area (TBD)
8. LTBB Government Staff who cannot work from home: Executive, Judicial, Legislative Branch
9. LTBB Government Employees remaining: Executive, Judicial, Legislative (130)
10. All Citizens and household members, all staff household members, all community members and household members (including non-Tribal)

E. Logistics of ordering and receiving the vaccines:

There is a **tentative** plan in place with the IHS Bemidji Area Office (BAO) to receive our first shipment of vaccines in December. This is subject to change depending on what vaccine becomes available and when. A secure transportation and storage system for the vaccine is being implemented. LTBB will participate in a national vaccine ordering portal to order and receive future vaccine shipments.

F. Technology:

IT staff have done a major upgrade to the electronic health record (RPMS) in order to be able to operate the vaccine management systems. They are now working to get LTBB registered in the systems so that proper reporting and documentation can be done when we receive and administer the vaccines.

G. Vaccine Administration:

Staff from the Clinic, Pharmacy, and Community Health will be the vaccinators. Two COVID specific staff have been hired with COVID funding and these employees will be an integral part of the vaccine administration. The Medical Director does a standing order for the vaccines. Details are being worked out for proper documentation and record keeping, and there are aggressive timelines that need to be met once the vaccines are administered. The shelf life of some COVID vaccines are short, so once the vaccines are received, the plan must be ready to operationalize as soon as the vaccines arrive.