



Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee

OHA's [interim COVID-19 vaccine plan](#) submitted to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) includes establishing a **Vaccine Advisory Committee** to create a vaccine distribution plan that centers on equity. 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.

LeadingAge Oregon CEO, Ruth Gulyas, will be serving on Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 vaccine advisory committee currently being assembled. OHA is soliciting additional members. Interested members should [apply using this form](#) and have until Monday, December 14th to apply. Leaders from OHA's Public Health Division and Community Engagement Team will select the other members and communicate back to all applicants during the following week. Members will be selected to ensure community representation, healthcare delivery expertise, geographic diversity, and lived experience. Below are more details about the advisory committee.

Scope: The Vaccine Advisory Committee will work with OHA to co-create equity values and principles and 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 and one or 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.