

News reports as well as conversations with Charbonneau residents would seem to indicate that many of our residents have questions and concerns about how vaccine distribution priorities will be set. On 01/08/2021, the Oregon Health Authority announced the formation of an Oregon COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee. They will meet to discuss vaccine priorities and their live-stream meetings are open to the public. By accessing their website, you can look at past meetings, live-stream future meetings and read/post public comments. Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINES/IMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATIONPARTNERSHIPS/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

From OHA:

Oregon's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) met for the first time yesterday to discuss how critical workers and populations will be prioritized in the state's vaccine rollout.

The committee will co-create a vaccine sequencing plan focused on health equity to ensure the state's vaccine distribution meets the needs of populations who are most at-risk and hardest hit by the pandemic. These populations include communities of color, tribal communities and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Educators and other staff at PK-12 schools and early learning centers will follow the Phase 1A group, which includes: health care workers, residents and staff at long-term care facilities and first responders, in the state's most immediate prioritization order. The committee is considering how to prioritize critical workers, such as transportation workers and grocery store workers, older adults, people with underlying conditions and other factors.

The next VAC meeting will stream live on Thursday, Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. You can watch yesterday's meeting here. Learn more on the committee's website.

Federal health agencies are expected to announce new coronavirus vaccine guidelines soon.