

Subject COVID-19 vaccine distribution and equity initiatives

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Overview

This bill establishes requirements for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and establishes programs to promote and measure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to disproportionately impacted communities. It requires the commissioner of health to establish a mobile vaccination program and requires publication or reporting on the state's COVID-19 vaccination plan, distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, funding for COVID-19 vaccine and response activities, and how disproportionately impacted communities are affected by COVID-19. This bill also requires appointment of an expert on vaccine disinformation to the state's COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Group and appropriates state and federal funds to the commissioner for these activities.

Summary

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1	Distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.
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Adds § 144.066. Directs the commissioner of health to distribute COVID-19 vaccines according to this section.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines the following terms for this section and sections 144.067 to 144.069: commissioner, COVID-19 vaccine, department, disproportionately impacted community, local health department, and mobile vaccination vehicle.

Subd. 2. Distribution. Requires the commissioner to establish and maintain partnerships or agreements with the listed entities to administer COVID-19 vaccines throughout the state. Also allows COVID-19 vaccines to be administered via mobile vaccination vehicles.

Subd. 3. Second dose or booster. States that a registered vaccine provider should be directed by the department during the registration process to assist

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vaccine recipients with scheduling an appointment for any required second dose or booster.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2 Equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Adds § 144.067. Requires the commissioner of health to establish positions to continue COVID-19 vaccine equity and outreach activities, establishes education and outreach and community assistance programs, and requires establishment of metrics to measure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Subd. 1. COVID-19 vaccine equity and outreach. Requires the commissioner of health to establish positions to work on COVID-19 vaccine equity and outreach and to address disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates. Requires this work to be managed by a director who has a leadership role in the department's COVID-19 response.

Subd. 2. Vaccine education and outreach campaign; direct delivery of information. Requires the commissioner to administer a COVID-19 vaccine education and outreach campaign to directly provide information on the listed topics to members of disproportionately impacted communities. Specifies how the information must be delivered.

Subd. 3. Vaccine education and outreach campaign; mass media. Requires the commissioner to administer a mass media campaign to provide COVID-19 vaccine education and outreach on the listed topics to members of disproportionately impacted communities.

Subd. 4. Community assistance. Requires the commissioner to administer a community assistance program to help members of disproportionately impacted communities arrange and prepare to obtain COVID-19 vaccines and to help transportation-limited individuals obtain vaccines.

Subd. 5. Equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Requires the commissioner to establish a set of metrics to measure the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and to set and update goals for vaccine distribution that are focused on equity.

Subd. 6. Expiration of programs. Requires the education and outreach programs and the community assistance program to operate until parity in COVID-19 vaccination rates is achieved and maintained between disproportionately impacted communities and the statewide average vaccination rate, or until the peacetime emergency due to COVID-19 ends, whichever occurs first.

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This section is effective the day following final enactment.

3 Mobile vaccination program.

Adds § 144.068. Requires the commissioner of health to establish a mobile vaccination program for the provision of COVID-19 vaccines around the state.

Subd. 1. Program established. Requires the commissioner to establish a mobile vaccination program to provide COVID-19 vaccines around the state, requires at least an unspecified number of mobile vaccination vehicles to be deployed, and specifies how mobile vaccination vehicles must be deployed around the state.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Provides that all residents of a community to which a mobile vaccination vehicle is deployed shall be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines from the vehicle, and allows individuals to establish residency in a community by self-attestation.

Subd. 3. Staffing; interpretation services. Lists staffing requirements for mobile vaccination vehicles. Requires vehicles serving communities with limited English proficiency to be staffed with interpreters for the needed languages, and requires all vehicles to have access to telephonic language interpretation services.

Subd. 4. Second doses. Requires mobile vaccination vehicle staff to help vaccine recipients who receive a first COVID-19 vaccine dose from a mobile vaccination vehicle to schedule an appointment for any required second dose or booster. Directs the commissioner, to the extent possible, to deploy mobile vaccination vehicles to allow vaccine recipients to receive second doses or boosters from the vehicles.

Subd. 5. Expiration. Requires the commissioner to operate mobile vaccination vehicles until a sufficient percentage of state recipients have received COVID-19 vaccines to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

4 COVID-19 vaccination plan and data; reports.

Adds § 144.069. Requires the commissioner of health to publish the state's updated COVID-19 vaccination plan, metrics for equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution, and implementation protocols for equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Also requires weekly publication of COVID-19 vaccine data and at least monthly reports on COVID-19 vaccine and response spending and activities and on how disproportionately impacted communities are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Subd. 1. COVID-19 vaccination plan; implementation protocols. Requires the commissioner to publish updates to the state’s COVID-19 vaccination plan, the equity metrics and goals for equitable COVID-19 vaccine distribution, and implementation protocols to address disparities in COVID-19 vaccination rates in certain communities.

Subd. 2. Data on COVID-19 vaccines. Requires the commissioner, on a weekly basis, to publish the specified data related to COVID-19 vaccines.

Subd. 3. Monthly reports. On at least a monthly basis, requires the commissioner to report to certain members of the legislature on spending for COVID-19 vaccination and response activities and on how disproportionately impacted communities are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

5 Additional member to COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Group.

Requires the commissioner of health to appoint an expert on vaccine disinformation to the state COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Group no later than an unspecified date.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

6 Appropriations.

Subd. 1. Federal funds. Appropriates to the commissioner of health, federal funds made available to the commissioner for vaccine activities, and requires these federal funds to be used for the COVID-19 vaccine equity, mobile vaccination program, and data and reporting initiatives.

Subd. 2. State funds. Makes blank appropriations in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for COVID-19 vaccine equity, mobile vaccination program, and data and reporting initiatives.



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