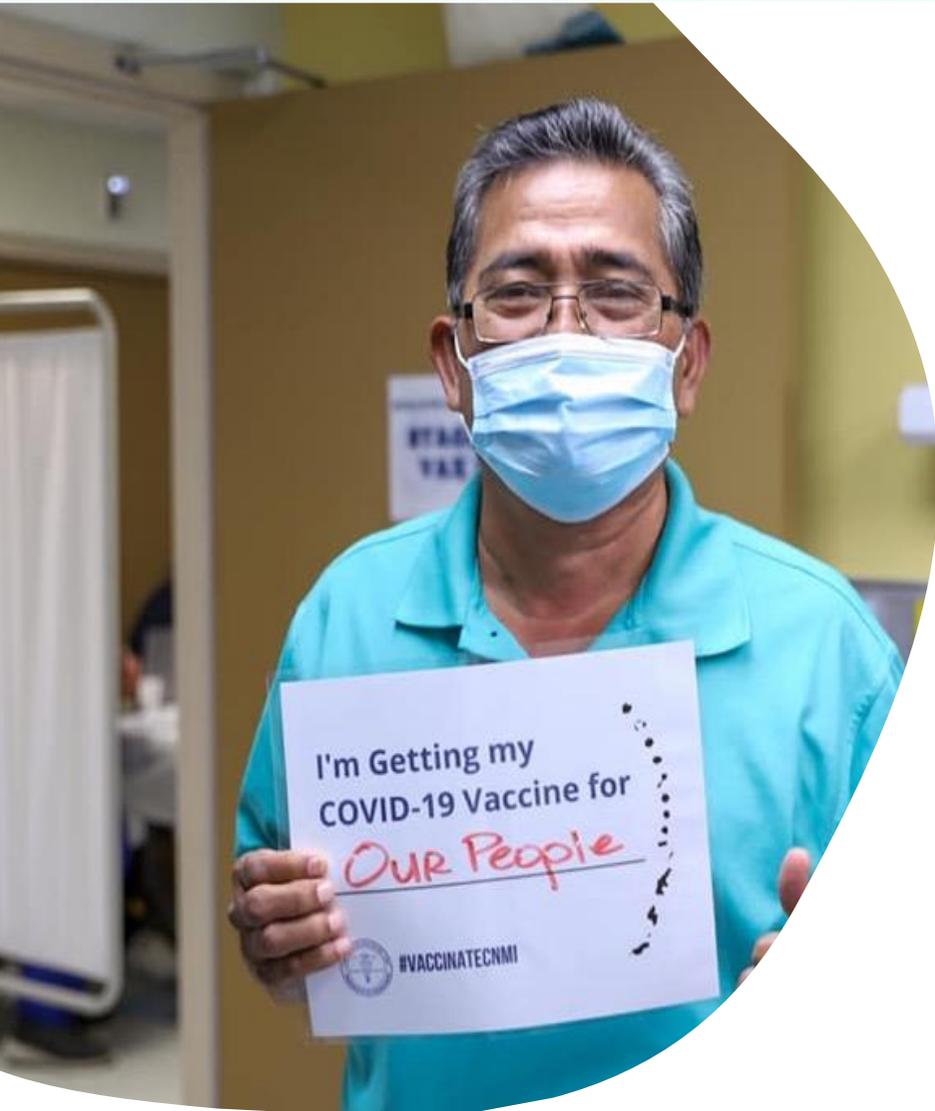


# Pacific Heads of Health

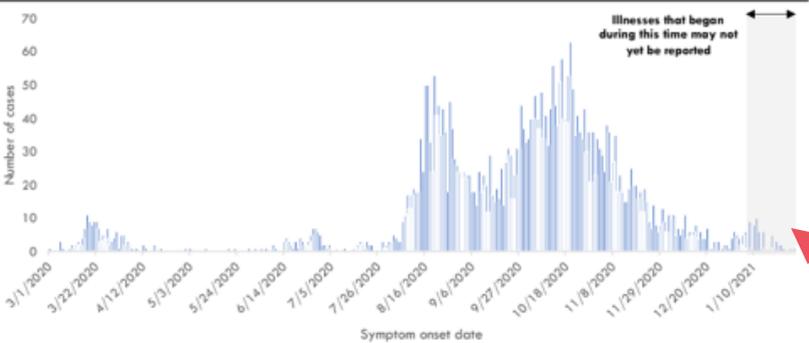
Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique



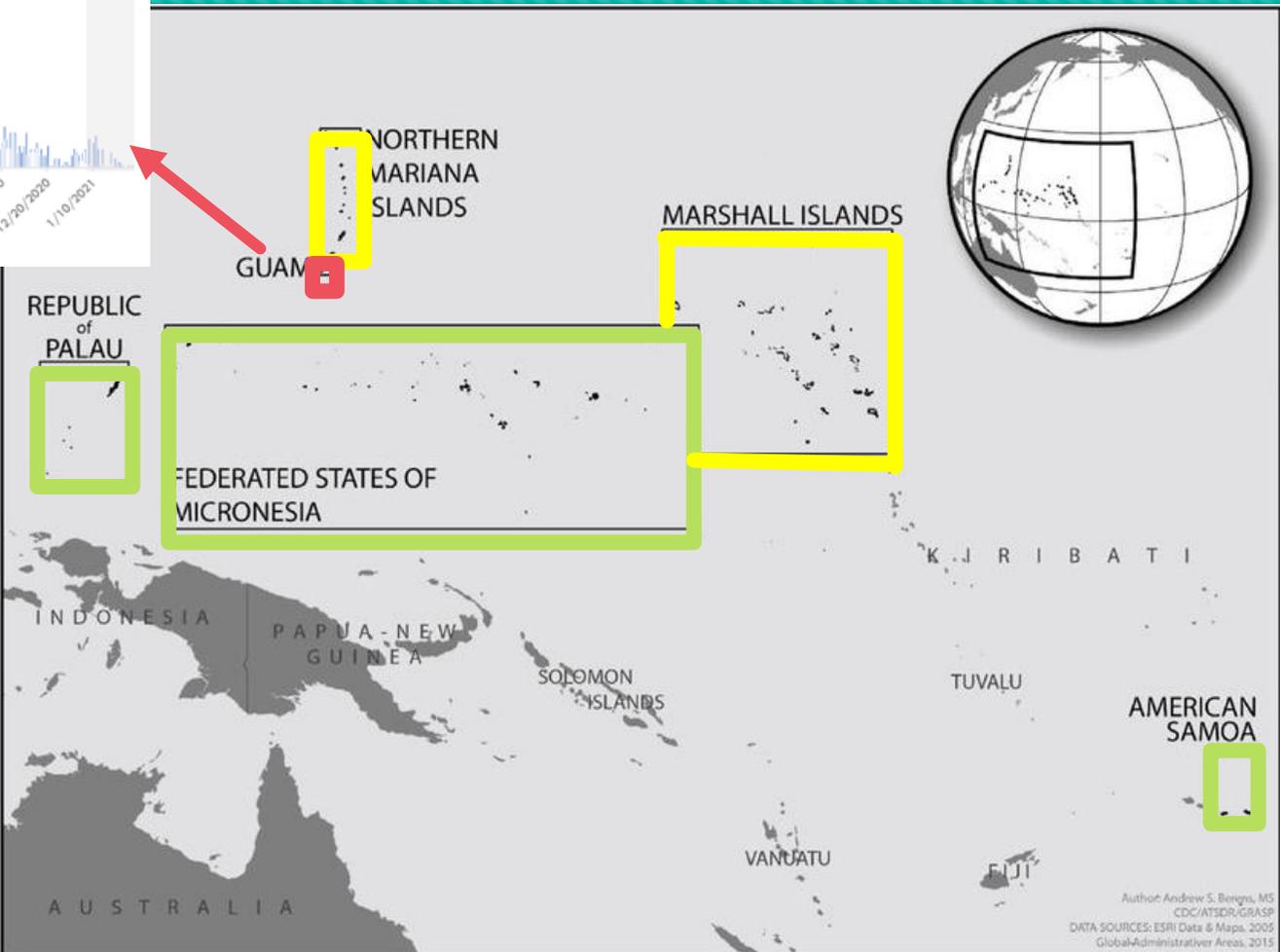
## USAPI Vaccination: Experiences and Lessons Learned

Haley Cash, PhD MPH  
on behalf of PIHOA and CDC

COVID-19 cases by symptom onset date, Guam



- COVID-free: AS, FSM, Palau
- RMI has reported 4 cases in mandatory quarantine (all recovered)
- CNMI has reported 132 cases (106 imported) and 2 deaths; no active community transmission
- Guam has reported 7,579 cases and 129 deaths



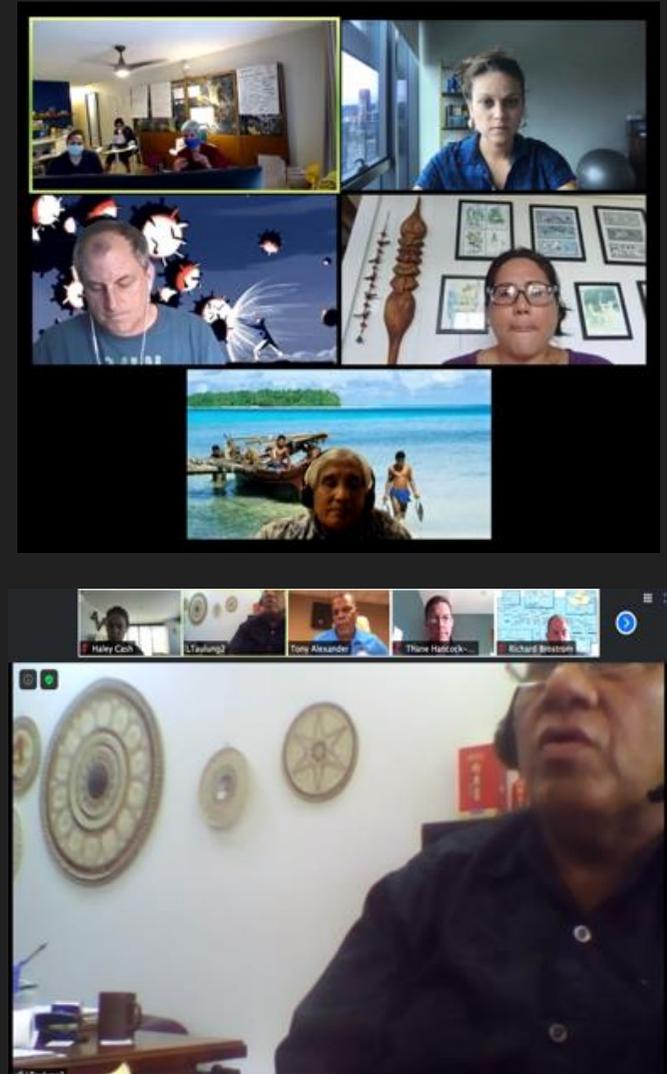
# COVID-19 Preparedness in the USAPIs

- Lab testing
  - GeneXpert, Abbott ID NOW, Abbott Binax NOW (WHO, CDC IRR, HHS)
  - PIHOA redistributed test kits to USAPIs from Honolulu
- Clinical needs
  - Ventilator and oxygen delivery supplies procurement
  - Preparing isolation facilities and protocols
  - Clinical training course series
- Repatriation support
  - Establishing pre-departure quarantine in Guam and Honolulu
  - Preparing quarantine facilities and protocols
- Communication and information dissemination
  - Weekly regional meetings and one-on-ones
  - Weekly regional sitrep

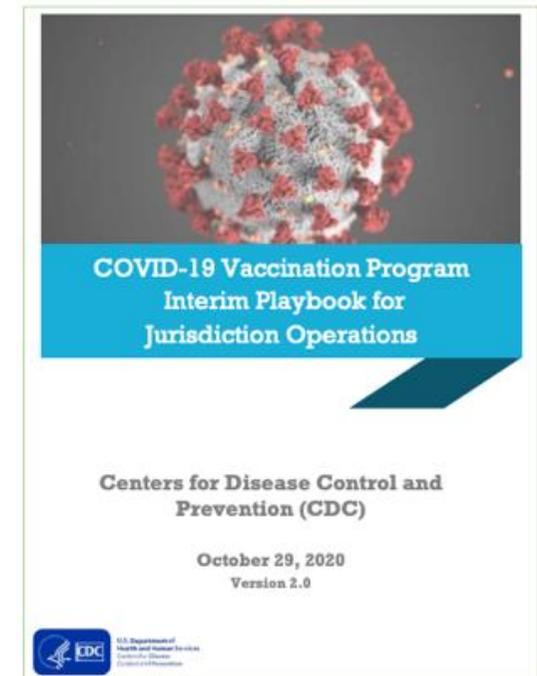
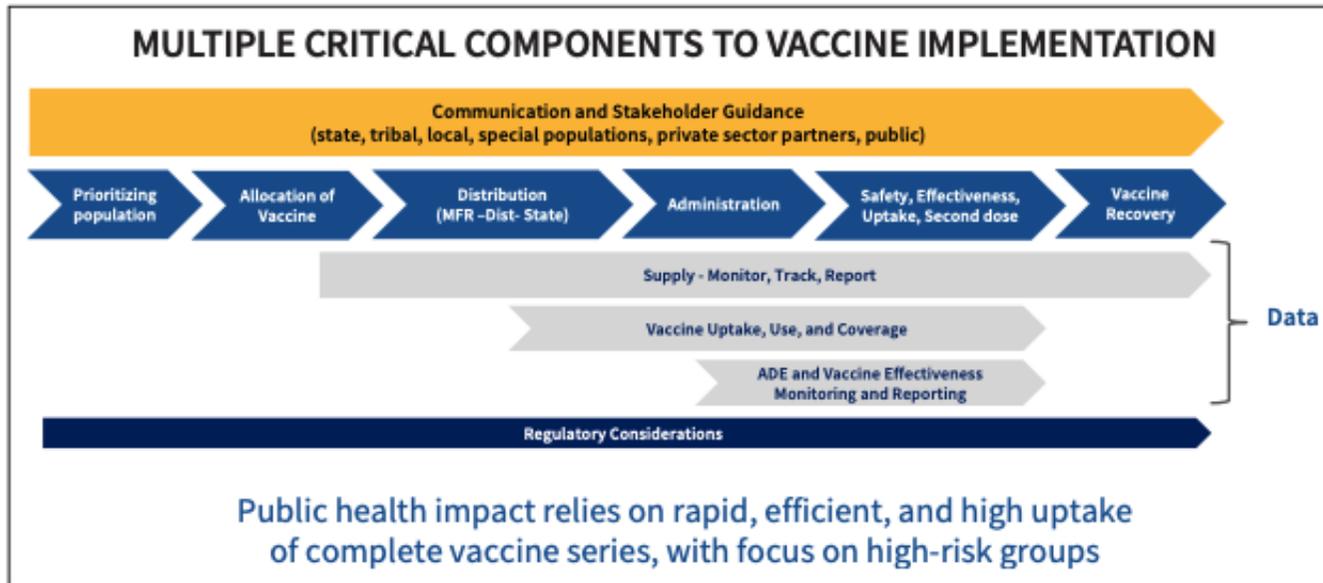


**CDC/PIHOA one-on-one USAPI weekly check-ins**  
**Week: 1/25/2021-1/29/2021**

USAPI	COVID-19 cases	Testing	Containment	Community Mitigation	Quarantine, Isolation & Medical Surge Preparedness	PPE	Vaccine Updates
AS	0 cases; 0 PUIs; 6 cases identified among crew members on cargo ships docked in AS (these are not being counted as AS cases)	Abbott ID NOW (4,346 available), GeneXpert (2,991 available), and Abbott Binax NOW (8,000) testing on-island; LBJ is now running ABI 7500; ASDOH is also procuring ABI 7500 and expanding lab; 2,788 total samples have been tested (patients, travelers, first responders)	Borders closed (extended to 2/1/21); some individuals allowed into AS via military flights w/ test w/in 72hrs of arrival + 14 day AS facility quarantine; ~400 people have been brought into AS; first HNL repatriation planned for 2/1 (161 residents)	Social distancing measures have been relaxed and American Samoa is currently at "code blue" allowing schools and daycares to open, businesses to open 5am-12am	50 ventilators functional at LBJ (48 available); 132 beds (51 available); 7 ICU beds (4 available) 16 total isolation COVID beds in COVID tent outside of LBJ (16 available); multiple quarantine sites are available; Tradewinds Hotel will be used to quarantine individuals repatriated from Honolulu	Stocks unknown at this time	<b>Doses received:</b> 18,450 <b>First doses administered:</b> 8,926 (as of 1/29) <b>Two doses administered:</b> 997 (as of 1/29) <b>% first dose administered:</b> 96.8%
CNMI	132 total cases with 2 deaths and 127 recovered; 3 new cases this week (imported); 106 of the total cases were imported; no known community transmission	Abbott ID NOW (21,198 available), GeneXpert (7,846 available), and Abbott Binax NOW (8,107) testing on-island; 29,868 total samples have been tested; 620 tests run in the past week; other platforms available are ABI 7500, Solgent DiaPlex, BioFire	Passengers are tested upon arrival, then retested after 5 days and required to complete a 5 to 7-day facility quarantine; 111 currently in facility quarantine (Kanoa and Marianas Resort); Sara Alert used for follow-up	Social distancing efforts are relaxed and CNMI is currently in "code blue" allowing most businesses to open with certain restrictions and gatherings of no more than 25	46 usable ventilators (42 available); at CHCC- 75 hospital beds (29 available), 8 ICU beds (4 available), 4 beds in COVID unit (4 available); Kanoa hotel is set up as an alternative care site with ICU, medical ward, and step-down units; medical tent is outside of the hospital with 40 beds; isolation is also at Kanoa (3 currently in facility isolation)	N-95s: 34,960 Surgical masks: 509,845 Gloves: 674,420 Gowns: 9,240 Face shields: 842	<b>Doses received:</b> 18,650 <b>First doses administered:</b> 6,486 (as of 1/29) <b>Two doses administered:</b> 3,058 (as of 1/29) <b>% first dose administered:</b> 69.6%



# US Vaccination Strategy



# Vaccines being used in the USAPIs

## Pfizer

- US EUA (16+)
- mRNA vaccine
- 2 doses, 21 days apart
- Shipped at -70°C
- Storage at -70°C for 6 months
- Once thawed and diluent is added, must be used within 6 hours
- Vaccine is sensitive to vibration once thawed
- AS, CNMI, and Guam currently administering Pfizer vaccine



## Moderna

- US EUA (18+)
- mRNA vaccine
- 2 doses, 28 days apart
- Shipped at -20°C
- No diluent
- Once thawed, must be used within 12 hours
- Vaccine is sensitive to vibration once thawed
- All USAPIs currently administering Moderna vaccine

# Vaccine Allotment

- US is currently using a “pro-rata” strategy for allocation based on population size
- The USAPIs are being sent monthly allotments with first and second doses
- All USAPIs have now received December and January allocations
- >100,000 doses have been delivered into the region

Jurisdiction	December Wave		December Total	Status**	January Wave		January Total	Status**
	Pfizer	Moderna			Pfizer	Moderna		
<b>Regional Totals</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>32,400</b>	<b>55,800</b>		<b>23,400</b>	<b>31,200</b>	<b>54,600</b>	
American Samoa	5,850	2,400	8,250	Delivered	7,800	2,400	10,200	Delivered
CNMI	5,850	2,600	8,450	Delivered	7,800	2,400	10,200	Delivered
Guam	11,700	7,600	19,300	Delivered	7,800	7,200	15,000	Delivered
Palau	-	2,800	2,800	Delivered	-	3,200	3,200	Delivered
FSM - Pohnpei	-	3,400	3,400	Delivered	-	3,800	3,800	Delivered
FSM - Chuuk	-	2,500	2,500	Delivered	-	3,200	3,200	Delivered
FSM - Yap	-	1,500	1,500	Delivered	-	2,000	2,000	Delivered
FSM - Kosrae	-	2,400	2,400	Delivered	-	600	600	Delivered
RMI - Majuro	-	5,000	5,000	Delivered	-	4,400	4,400	Delivered
RMI - Ebeye	-	2,200	2,200	Delivered	-	2,000	2,000	Delivered

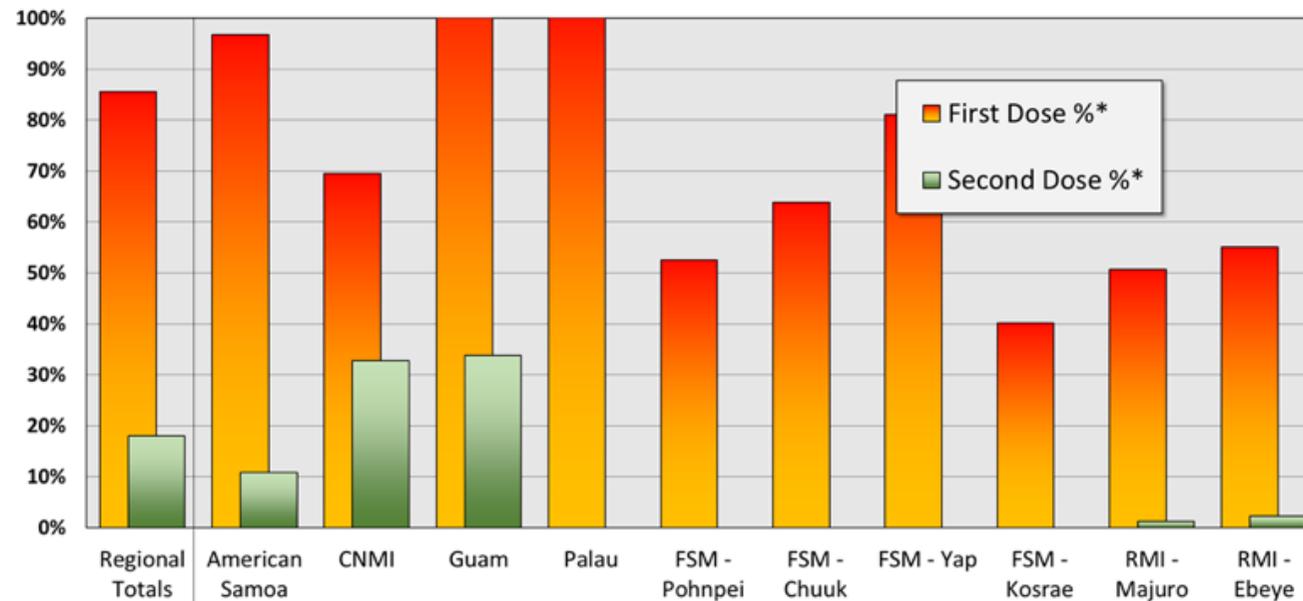
# Vaccination Progress

- 47,246 first doses (86%) and 9,954 (18%) second doses have been administered in the USAPIs
- % first doses administered ranges from 40% to 113%
- Many USAPIs have used all their available first doses and are awaiting February allocation

Jurisdiction	Total Vaccine Allocated	Total Vaccine Received	First Doses Received	First Doses Given	First Dose %*	Second Doses Given	Second Dose %*
<b>Regional Totals</b>	<b>170,600</b>	<b>110,400</b>	<b>55,200</b>	<b>47,246</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>9,954</b>	<b>18%</b>
American Samoa	29,450	18,450	9,225	8,926	<b>97%</b>	997	<b>11%</b>
CNMI	29,650	18,650	9,325	6,486	<b>70%</b>	3,058	<b>33%</b>
Guam	51,300	34,300	17,150	19,455	<b>113%</b>	5,793	<b>34%</b>
Palau	9,200	6,000	3,000	3,109	<b>104%</b>	0	0%
FSM - Pohnpei	11,000	7,200	3,600	1,890	<b>53%</b>	0	0%
FSM - Chuuk	9,500	5,700	2,850	1,819	<b>64%</b>	0	0%
FSM - Yap	5,500	3,500	1,750	1,418	<b>81%</b>	0	0%
FSM - Kosrae	4,000	3,000	1,500	603	<b>40%</b>	0	0%
RMI - Majuro	14,800	9,400	4,700	2,383	<b>51%</b>	57	<b>1%</b>
RMI - Ebeye	6,200	4,200	2,100	1,157	<b>55%</b>	49	<b>2%</b>

# Vaccination Progress

Getting "Shots into Arms" for the USAPI (as of Feb 2, 2021)



\* From best available data on 01/29/2021

# Lessons Learned

- Shipping can be challenging- larger, less frequent allocations work better
- There is a need to balance getting vaccine out quickly, but also making sure that certain groups are being prioritized
- Scheduling of doses can help to improve flow and reduce wait times
- Data management is critical and needs to be considered when determining how quickly vaccine can be administered
- Communication is essential and needs to continually be adapted
- Consider how the vaccine will be marketed (televise leaders being vaccinated, work with your religious or traditional leaders, consider social media campaigns, etc.)
- Adverse reactions need to be documented, and communications teams should be prepared to handle any adverse reactions and coincidental deaths

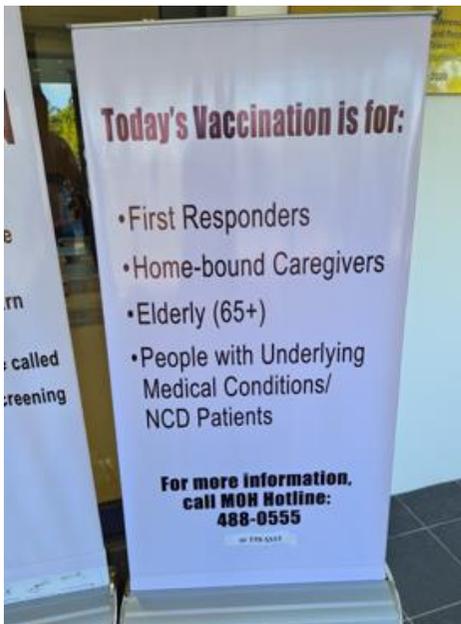
# Lessoned Learned: Shipping

- Shipping can be challenging- larger, less frequent allocations work better



# Lessoned Learned: Balance priority groups and speed

- There is a need to balance getting vaccine out quickly, but also making sure that certain groups are being prioritized



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

## COVID-19 VACCINATION AT CMI OLD LIBRARY starting 2-1-2021 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

1. All Individuals >40 years
2. Balance of Health Care Workers and First Responders (those designated for Phase 2 and includes commercial enterprises who will be open during a CONDITION LEVEL 1)
3. On Ebeye- to also include USAG-KA RMI Workforce (residents on Ebeye)
4. IMMUNOCOMPROMISED- age >18 years
5. People with Mental Health Issues >18 years
6. LEADERSHIP Succession

Roll up your sleeves for RMI COVID-19 free!

#covid19vaccination  
#covidfreeRMI  
#RMI

# Lessons Learned: Scheduling doses

- Scheduling of doses can help to improve flow and reduce wait times



**FREE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS**

**MODERNA DOSE 1 | OKKODO HIGH SCHOOL, DEDEDO**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 8:30AM - 3:00PM  
Residents are advised to schedule an appointment online via Eventbrite. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/1k64outgum302> to schedule and to learn more about eligibility. Although walk-ins will be accepted, priority will be given to scheduled appointments.

**PFIZER-BIONTECH DOSE 2 | MODERNA DOSE 1 & 2 UOG FIELDHOUSE, MANGILAO**  
TUESDAY, FEB 2 - SATURDAY, FEB 6 | 1:00PM - 7:00PM  
Residents are advised to schedule an appointment online via Eventbrite. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/1k64outgum302> to schedule and to learn more about eligibility. A total of 65 appointments and up to 15 walk-ins will be accepted hourly.

**WHAT TO BRING:** ✓ IMMUNIZATION CARD (DOB & PIN/ID#) ✓ PHOTO ID ✓ APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION (DIGITAL OR HARD COPY)

**PRE-SCREENING ELIGIBILITY FOR VACCINATIONS**  
In order to take the COVID-19 vaccine, you must meet the following pre-screening eligibility criteria:

- Must not be currently infected with COVID-19, or previously exposed within the last 14 days
- Must not have received any other vaccine, such as the flu shot, in the last 14 days

\*Please note: if this is your first time receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, please make sure you have never taken other COVID-19 vaccine products.



**Online Registration for Tinian 1a population is extended to 10pm**

**COVID-19 Vaccination ONLINE registration for TINIAN is OPEN until 10PM for healthcare workers and COVID-19 first-responders at:**  
[WWW.VACCINATECNMI.COM](http://WWW.VACCINATECNMI.COM)

What you need to register:

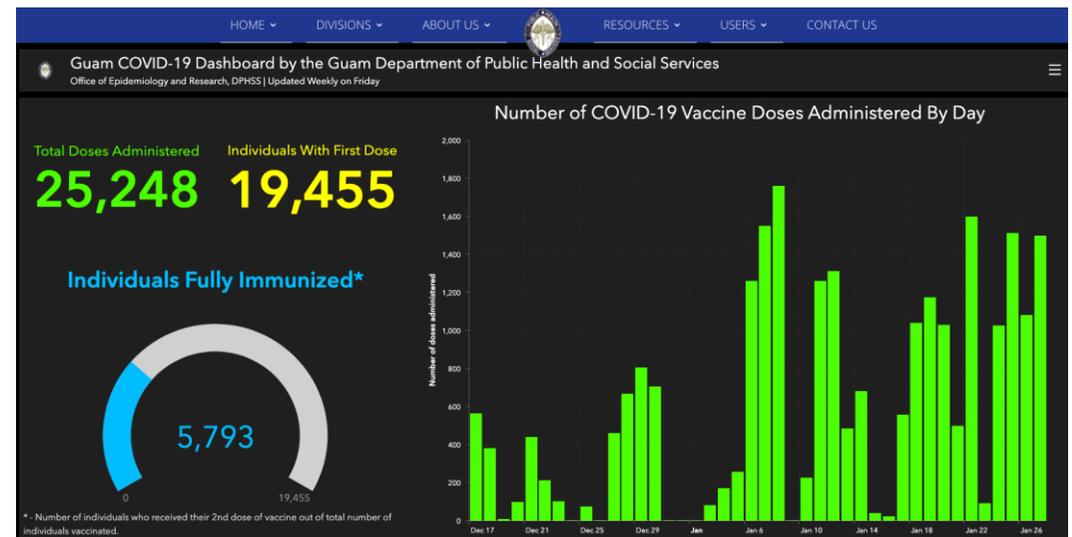
- Government issued ID (*International or US Passport or driver's license*)
- Health insurance information (e.g. Insurance card)

On-site registration is limited to Man Amko' 65 years and older on Sunday, January 17, 2021. Please arrive before 10am.

VACCINATE CNMI CALL CENTER: (670) 682-SHOT / Mon-Sun 7am-10pm  
VACCINATE CNMI WEBSITE REGISTRATION: [vaccinatecnmi.com](http://vaccinatecnmi.com)

# Lessons Learned: Data management

- Data management is critical and needs to be considered when determining how quickly vaccine can be administered



# Lessons Learned: Communications

- Communication is essential and needs to continually be adapted



**ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE**

**1. SHOULD I GET VACCINATED FOR COVID-19?**  
It is strongly recommended that you get vaccinated. The vaccine will help protect you from getting COVID-19. If you still get infected after you get vaccinated, the vaccine may prevent serious illness. By getting vaccinated, you can also help protect people around you.

**2. CAN THE VACCINE GIVE ME COVID-19?**  
No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use or in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. However, it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it's possible you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick.

**3. IF I ALREADY HAD COVID-19 AND RECOVERED, DO I STILL NEED TO GET VACCINATED?**  
Yes. CDC recommends that you get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19, because you can catch it more than once. While you may have some short-term antibody production after recovering from COVID-19, we don't know how long this protection will last.

**4. CAN MY CHILD GET VACCINATED FOR COVID-19?**  
No. More studies need to be conducted before COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for children aged 18 and younger.

**5. IS IT SAFE TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE IF I HAVE AN UNDERLYING MEDICAL CONDITION?**  
Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying health problems like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.

**6. IS IT BETTER TO GET NATURAL IMMUNITY TO COVID-19 RATHER THAN IMMUNITY FROM A VACCINE?**  
No. While you may have some short-term antibody protection after recovering from COVID-19, we don't know how long this protection lasts. Vaccination is the best protection, and it is safe. People who get COVID-19 can have serious illnesses, and some have debilitating symptoms that persist for months.

**7. WHY DO I NEED TWO COVID-19 SHOTS?**  
Currently authorized vaccines, and most vaccines under development, require two doses of vaccine. The first shot helps the immune system recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune response. You need both to get the best protection.

**8. WILL THE SHOT HURT OR MAKE ME SICK?**  
There may be side effects, but they should go away within a few days. Possible side effects include a sore arm, headache, fever, or body aches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. Side effects are signs that the vaccine is working to build immunity. If they don't go away in a week, or you have more serious symptoms, call your doctor.

**9. ARE THERE LONG-TERM SIDE EFFECTS FROM COVID-19 VACCINES?**  
Because all COVID-19 vaccines are new, it will take more time and more people getting vaccinated to learn about very rare or possible long-term side effects. The good news is, at least 8 weeks' worth of safety data were gathered in the clinical trials for all the authorized vaccines, and it's unusual for vaccine side effects to appear more than 8 weeks after vaccination.

**10. HOW DO I KNOW IF COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE?**  
All COVID-19 vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns. CDC and the FDA will keep monitoring the vaccines to look for safety issues after they are authorized and in use.

**11. WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS?**  
If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 911, or go to the nearest hospital. Call the vaccination provider or your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

**12. WHICH CAN THE GENERAL PUBLIC RECEIVE THE COVID-19 VACCINE?**  
Due to limited quantities of the COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC in consultation with Guam's vaccine and Antiviral Prioritization Policy Committee (VAPPC), recommends prioritizing people based on certain risk factors, such as occupation, age, comorbidities, underlying health conditions, working conditions and inability to social distance. As more vaccines become available, DPHSA and the VAPPC will work with healthcare providers to ensure fair and equitable distribution to the community.

 For more information, visit [dphsa.guam.gov](https://dphsa.guam.gov) or call 222

**WEAR YOUR MASK. WASH YOUR HANDS. WATCH YOUR DISTANCE.**



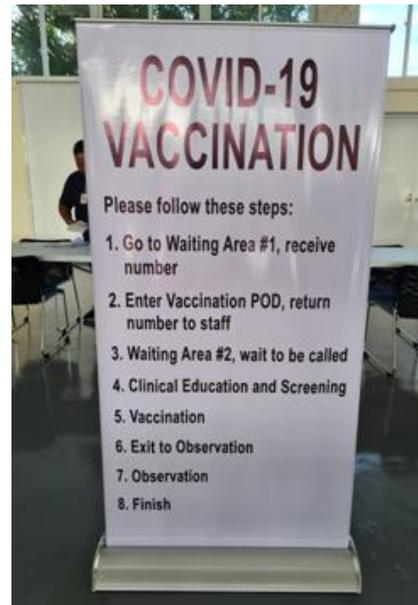
# Lessons Learned: Consider your marketing

- Consider how the vaccine will be marketed (televise leaders being vaccinated, work with your religious or traditional leaders, consider social media campaigns, etc.)



# Lessons learned:

- Adverse reactions need to be documented, and communications teams should be prepared to handle any adverse reactions and coincidental deaths



## Summary

- There were many collaborative efforts to help prepare the USAPIs for vaccination
- >100,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccine have been delivered to the USAPIs
- Almost 50,000 first doses have been administered (86% of first doses received)
- CDC will continue to ship monthly allocations of vaccine into the USAPIs
- Many USAPIs are just starting to administer second doses
- No major adverse reactions have been reported
- Although there have been some challenges, overall, the USAPIs have been able to get vaccine out quickly
- Many lessons learned in the USAPIs can be used to inform other Pacific jurisdictions

# Thank you!

**Especially to all of the USAPI  
health leadership, health staff,  
and community members**

[haleyc@pihoa.org](mailto:haleyc@pihoa.org)

