



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
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Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 2020

TO: Chief Judges

CC: Jennifer Lixey Terrill, MDHHS
Regional Administrators
Milton L. Mack, Jr.

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd

SUBJECT: Vaccinations for Trial Court Personnel

Chief Justice Bridget McCormack has been advocating for appropriate prioritization of vaccinations for trial court personnel. She wrote a [letter to Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun](#), Chief Medical Executive for the Department of Health and Human Services, on December 8, 2020, to initiate a dialogue. Following up on this advocacy, Milton Mack met with the MDHHS leadership team that is charged with defining “essential workers.” As expected, the vaccines will be administered in a phased approach based on numerous considerations, such as the type of work performed, the physical proximity of the worker to others, the risk and duration of possible exposure to the virus, etc. The first phase includes health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities. Generally, trial court personnel are included in the second phase.

Within each phase there will be additional prioritization. As it applies to trial court personnel, local health departments will prioritize the order of vaccinations. You should contact your local health department to discuss where the court’s judges and staff will be in the sequence. As we understand it, the phases and their subgroups are not rigid. That is, it is not necessary for everyone in a prior phase to be vaccinated before the vaccines are administered to persons in the next phase. Based on health and safety considerations, a person in the second phase might actually receive the vaccine before someone in phase one. Implementing the phases should be viewed as attacking multiple fronts in waves, and not as a linear process. The MDHHS believes that, by this spring, the vaccination of all phases will be completed.

If you have any additional questions, please direct them to your regional administrator.