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## Inclusion of pregnant individuals among priority populations for coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination for all 50 states in the United States.

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# Inclusion of pregnant individuals among priority populations for coronavirus disease 2019 vaccination for all 50 states in the United States

**OBJECTIVE:** The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists<sup>1</sup> recommends that coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines should not be withheld from pregnant individuals who meet the criteria for vaccination based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)—recommended priority groups, which include pregnancy in priority phase 1C to receive the vaccine (“. . . persons aged 16–64 years with high-risk medical conditions.”).<sup>2</sup> Final prioritization for COVID-19 vaccinations is based on individual states’ guidelines. The objective of this study was to review whether pregnant persons were uniformly included in individual states’ priority COVID-19 vaccination phase 1 allocations.

**STUDY DESIGN:** We accessed COVID-19 vaccination prioritization on the official state websites for each of the 50 states in the United States and for the District of Columbia (DC) to confirm whether pregnant individuals are presently included among the phase 1 priority groups. Because we used publicly available data and without patient information, no institutional review board approval was needed.

**RESULTS:** The results of prioritization for pregnant individuals for each state in the United States and DC are presented in the [Table](#). Most states in the United States (36 of 51; 71%) encompassing 71% of the population in the United States do not include pregnant individuals among their

**TABLE**  
Priority classification of pregnant individuals by states in the United States

Population	State	Priority (phase)	Source
States classifying pregnant individuals priority phase 1			
12,801,989	PA	Yes (1A)	<a href="https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx">https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx</a>
731,545	AK	Yes (1B)	<a href="http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAvailability.aspx">http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAvailability.aspx</a>
3,565,287	CT	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination—Phases">https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination—Phases</a>
1,344,212	ME	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/phases">https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/phases</a>
2,976,149	MS	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html#eligible">https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html#eligible</a>
6,137,428	MO	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/so-vaccine-distribution-order.pdf">https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/so-vaccine-distribution-order.pdf</a>
8,882,190	NJ	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/who-is-eligible-for-vaccination-in-new-jersey-who-is-included-in-the-vaccination-phases">https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/slowing-the-spread/who-is-eligible-for-vaccination-in-new-jersey-who-is-included-in-the-vaccination-phases</a>
2,096,829	NM	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021.1.22-DOH-Phase-Guidance.pdf">https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021.1.22-DOH-Phase-Guidance.pdf</a>
28,995,881	TX	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf">https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf</a>
8,535,519	VA	Yes (1B)	<a href="https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/#phase1b">https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/#phase1b</a>
4,467,673	KY	Yes (1C)	<a href="https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-vaccine">https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-covid-vaccine</a>
9,986,857	MI	Yes (1C)	<a href="https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI_COVID-19_Vaccination_Prioritization_Guidance_710349_7.pdf">https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MI_COVID-19_Vaccination_Prioritization_Guidance_710349_7.pdf</a>

Grünebaum. Inclusion of pregnant individuals among priority populations for all 50 US states. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2021.

(continued)

TABLE

**Priority classification of pregnant individuals by states in the United States** (continued)

Population	State	Priority (phase)	Source
762,062	ND	Yes (1C)	<a href="https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/COVID%20Vaccine%20Page/COVID-19_Vaccine_Prioritization_Phase1A-C.pdf">https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/COVID%20Vaccine%20Page/COVID-19_Vaccine_Prioritization_Phase1A-C.pdf</a>
5,148,714	SC	Yes (1C)	<a href="https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine#phase1c">https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine#phase1c</a>
623,989	VT	Yes	<a href="https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont">https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/about-covid-19-vaccines-vermont</a>
States not classifying pregnant individuals priority phase 1			
4,903,185	AL	No	<a href="https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf">https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf</a>
7,278,717	AZ	No	<a href="https://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/vaccine-prioritization-in-arizona/">https://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/vaccine-prioritization-in-arizona/</a> <a href="https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/vapac-recommendations-draft-proposal.pdf">https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/vapac-recommendations-draft-proposal.pdf</a>
3,017,825	AR	No	<a href="https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-vaccination-plan">https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/covid-19-vaccination-plan</a>
39,512,223	CA	No	<a href="https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/">https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/</a>
5,758,736	CO	No	<a href="https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine">https://covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine</a>
973,764	DE	No	<a href="https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/vaccination-timeline/#phase-1b">https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/vaccination-timeline/#phase-1b</a>
21,477,737	FL	No	<a href="https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-covid-19-vaccination-line-an-update-on-state-prioritization-plans/">https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-covid-19-vaccination-line-an-update-on-state-prioritization-plans/</a> <a href="http://www11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/_partners/covid19_report_archive/vaccination-plan/vaccination_plan_latest.pdf">http://www11.doh.state.fl.us/comm/_partners/covid19_report_archive/vaccination-plan/vaccination_plan_latest.pdf</a>
10,617,423	GA	No	<a href="https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-plan">https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-plan</a>
1,415,872	HI	No	<a href="https://health.hawaii.gov/news/newsroom/hawaii-department-of-health-issues-updated-covid-19-vaccination-plan/">https://health.hawaii.gov/news/newsroom/hawaii-department-of-health-issues-updated-covid-19-vaccination-plan/</a>
12,671,821	IL	No	<a href="https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-distribution">https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-distribution</a>
1,787,065	ID	No	<a href="https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/When-can-I-get-a-COVID-vaccine-in-Idaho-011221-5.pdf">https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/When-can-I-get-a-COVID-vaccine-in-Idaho-011221-5.pdf</a>
6,732,219	IN	No	<a href="https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Eligibility%201.5.21.pdf">https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/Eligibility%201.5.21.pdf</a>
3,155,070	IA	No	<a href="https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Vaccine/Information-for-the-Public">https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Vaccine/Information-for-the-Public</a>
2,913,314	KS	No	<a href="https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/121/Vaccine-Prioritization-Slides-PDF">https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/121/Vaccine-Prioritization-Slides-PDF</a>
4,648,794	LA	No	<a href="https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine/">https://ldh.la.gov/covidvaccine/</a>
6,045,680	MD	No	<a href="https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine/">https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/vaccine/</a>
6,949,503	MA	No	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-distribution-timeline-phase-overview#phase-1">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-distribution-timeline-phase-overview#phase-1</a>
5,639,632	MN	No	<a href="https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/whos-getting-vaccinated/index.jsp">https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/whos-getting-vaccinated/index.jsp</a>

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(continued)

TABLE

**Priority classification of pregnant individuals by states in the United States** (continued)

Population	State	Priority (phase)	Source
1,068,778	MT	No	<a href="https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusvaccine#9925611147-when-can-i-get-vaccinated">https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusvaccine#9925611147-when-can-i-get-vaccinated</a>
1,934,408	NE	No	<a href="http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx">http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx</a>
3,080,156	NV	No	<a href="https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NEVADA-COVID-19-VACCINE-PLAYBOOK-V3-BRIEF_011121.pdf">https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NEVADA-COVID-19-VACCINE-PLAYBOOK-V3-BRIEF_011121.pdf</a>
1,359,711	NH	No	<a href="https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid19-vaccine-allocation-plan-summary.pdf">https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid19-vaccine-allocation-plan-summary.pdf</a>
19,453,561	NY	No	<a href="https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a—phase-1b">https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a—phase-1b</a>
10,488,084	NC	No (phase 4)	<a href="https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines">https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines</a> <a href="https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/vaccines/Deeper-Dive-Group-4.pdf">https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/vaccines/Deeper-Dive-Group-4.pdf</a>
11,689,100	OH	No	<a href="https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program">https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program</a>
3,956,971	OK	No	<a href="https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/covid19/documents/vaccine/COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Priority%20Population%20Framework%20for%20Oklahoma%20-%202012-10-20.pdf">https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/covid19/documents/vaccine/COVID-19%20Vaccine%20Priority%20Population%20Framework%20for%20Oklahoma%20-%202012-10-20.pdf</a>
4,217,737	OR	No	<a href="https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/">https://covidvaccine.oregon.gov/</a>
1,059,361	RI	No (phase 2)	<a href="https://covid.ri.gov/vaccination">https://covid.ri.gov/vaccination</a>
884,659	SD	No	<a href="https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Vaccine/COVIDVaccineAvailability_Distribution_FlyerSize.pdf">https://doh.sd.gov/documents/COVID19/Vaccine/COVIDVaccineAvailability_Distribution_FlyerSize.pdf</a>
6,833,174	TN	No	<a href="https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/COVID-19_Vaccination_Plan.pdf">https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/COVID-19_Vaccination_Plan.pdf</a>
3,205,958	UT	No	<a href="https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-distribution/">https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-distribution/</a>
7,614,893	WA	No	<a href="https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/VaccinationPhasesInfographic.pdf">https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/VaccinationPhasesInfographic.pdf</a>
705,749	Washington, DC	No	<a href="https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/Vaccination-Program-Phases-with-Tiers.pdf">https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/Vaccination-Program-Phases-with-Tiers.pdf</a>
1,792,147	WV	No	<a href="https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx">https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx</a>
5,822,434	WI	No	<a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm</a>
578,759	WY	No	<a href="https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/">https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/</a>

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priority populations. Only 6 of 13 states that mentioned pregnancy as a priority indication for COVID-19 vaccination and none of the 36 states not including pregnancy in priority groups linked back to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention definition of pregnancy as an increased risk of severe illness.<sup>3</sup>

**CONCLUSION:** We found substantial variations in how pregnancy is classified for COVID-19 vaccination by states in the United States and DC. ACIP includes pregnancy among the phase 1 groups, defined as: “Adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. Severe illness

from COVID-19 is defined as hospitalization, admission to the ICU, intubation or mechanical ventilation, or death.”<sup>3</sup> By stark contrast, most states in the United States exclude pregnancy from their priority populations. Pregnant individuals are at an increased risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 infections.<sup>1–3</sup> Excluding them from phase 1 priority will unnecessarily increase adverse outcomes for pregnant individuals. This becomes even more important if physicians recommend COVID-19 vaccinations to all pregnant persons.<sup>4</sup> States in the United States and DC should reconsider their COVID-19 priority vaccination and include immediately pregnant individuals among their phase 1 priority groups. A more effective approach toward eliminating variation in priorities of the states would be for the federal government to mandate this change. ■

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