Preparing Hospitals for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

While hospitals and healthcare systems manage the ongoing surge of COVID-19 patients, plans are underway for vaccine distribution with the first doses going to healthcare workers and long-term care facilities as they become available. Although promising, vaccine distribution also comes with unprecedented logistical challenges for hospitals – challenges that can only be met with a coordinated approach and key safety measures to ensure quick and efficient distribution.

**Meet the Logistics Challenge**

Even if all goes according to plan for rolling out the vaccine(s), factoring in ultra-low temperature storage requirements and the timing of a required second dose, many hospitals will initially receive just a fraction of the doses needed to vaccinate all hospital staff members.

Hospitals will need to stratify distribution based on a combination of risk factors including staff health conditions and direct care responsibilities. They’ll also need to provide updates and new information on what to expect, dose reminders and continued provider outreach as well as reporting of adverse reactions to healthcare authorities. All of these touchpoints can be quickly and efficiently coordinated through the Everbridge platform enabling hospitals to:

+ Conduct polling, vaccination reminders and wellness checks
+ Track and report doses as administered
+ Survey for adverse events
+ Integrate with hospital registration systems
+ Monitor vaccine temperature controls and automate response
+ Integrate all steps and task ownership with overall hospital-wide COVID-19 plan
Integration, Surveillance, Automation and Response

The Everbridge platform also integrates with hospital vaccine registration systems. Once staff have received the vaccine, with a swipe of their badge, hospitals can track the date and time of each dose and notify staff when their second dose is due. In between doses, the platform can automatically survey and monitor for adverse effects among those receiving the vaccination.

Each vaccine tray containing approximately 5,000 doses, costs an estimated $100K USD per tray and typically comes with a requirement that hospitals distribute the first tray before receiving additional supplies. Given the initial limited supply of the vaccine, it’s especially critical that hospitals have a surveillance and response system in place to mitigate any losses.

This includes maintaining the required storage temperatures -- Pfizer’s vaccine requires storage at new ultra-low temperatures (-94 Fahrenheit). While Moderna’s vaccine can live in a standard refrigerator for 30 days, once thawed, providers must administer the vaccine within 12 hours or toss it out. Through the Everbridge platform, hospitals can detect temperature changes in vaccine storage and automate response teams, quickly mitigating costly losses that could severely impact dose availability for staff.

From distribution and storage, to follow-up care and reporting, the effectiveness of the vaccine can be monitored, providing a clear picture of any gaps that exist in administering the vaccine.

Let’s Chat
Do you have questions? Would you like to know more about Critical Event Management?
Get in touch or just call us at +1-818-230-9700 to learn more.

ABOUT EVERBRIDGE

Everbridge, Inc. (NASDAQ: EVBG) is the global leader in critical event management and enterprise safety software applications that automate and accelerate an organization’s operational response to critical events in order to keep people safe and businesses running. Everbridge is based in Boston and Los Angeles with additional offices in Lansing, San Francisco, Beijing, Kolkata, London, Oslo, Singapore, and Stockholm.