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December 4, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department Planning for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in DuPage County

DuPage County—In anticipation of COVID-19 vaccine availability, the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is preparing to receive and distribute vaccines later this month. This work includes developing plans to ensure equitable and timely distribution, assessing logistical capabilities, and communicating vaccine safety and effectiveness to diverse populations in multiple sectors.

Additionally, DCHD officials are working with partners at all levels, including hospitals, health care providers, and community leaders, on flexible COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines and scenarios.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and their Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, DCHD will follow a multi-phased approach. The following priority groups have been recommended for vaccination at this time. These are subject to change.

- **Phase 1a:** Health care personnel and long-term care residents will be prioritized for initial vaccine allocation.
- **Phase 1b:** Essential workers (e.g., Education Sector, Food & Agriculture, Utilities, Police, Firefighters, Corrections Officers, Transportation).
- **Phase 1c:** Adults with high-risk medical conditions and adults 65 years and older.

Additional information on the implementation and local availability of a COVID-19 vaccine will be shared as it becomes available.

"This vaccine provides us a significant tool in battling this pandemic, however, it will be several months until there is significant supply to get most adults immunized. So, it is important to maintain other public health prevention measures which we know will help us stop the spread of this virus and protect our communities," said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.

Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

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“Our plans for vaccine distribution to these critical workers and residents is the next step toward getting back to normal. I encourage everyone to be patient and continue to follow the actions we know work to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities.”

As plans for vaccination continue to develop everyone is reminded to continue following public health guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often;
- Wear a mask whenever outside your home or with anyone not from your household;
- Watch your distance, staying at least 6 feet from people outside of your immediate household and avoid in-person gatherings; and
- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19, and contact your healthcare provider for appropriate evaluation, testing, and care.

For people seeking COVID-19 testing in DuPage, there are two drive-thru community-based testing sites (CBTS) available:

- **DuPage County Complex Drive-Thru Test Site**
 - 421 N County Farm Rd, Wheaton, IL
 - Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to noon, or until tests are available.
- **Odeum Expo Center Drive-Thru Test Site**
 - 1033 N. Villa Avenue, Villa Park, IL
 - Sunday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or until tests are available.

For additional testing locations, please visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19testing.

Additional COVID-19 information and resources can be found at www.dupagehealth.org/covid19.

More information on COVID-19 vaccines is available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html.

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