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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Update

DuPage County— Since the first 13,650 doses of COVID-19 vaccine arrived in DuPage County last Wednesday, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) has worked to distribute vaccine to local healthcare partners who have been vaccinating healthcare personnel in DuPage County. Over 10,000 healthcare personnel have been vaccinated so far.

As the vaccine supply increases additional vaccination opportunities are now available for healthcare personnel who are not affiliated with hospitals including Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Individuals and organizations who want to be notified about vaccination clinics should register for DCHD's [COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Updates](#). This will allow the Health Department to reach back out to individuals and organizations when it is time for their vaccinations to be provided.

DCHD expects that it will take several weeks to receive enough vaccine to vaccinate all healthcare personnel in DuPage County. DCHD will continue to provide updates on how and where individuals can sign up to register for vaccination appointments.

This week, DuPage County expects to receive over 16,000 doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Moderna vaccine through an [emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) last Friday and the the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that Americans aged 18 years and older receive the Moderna vaccine.

These next shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine will support efforts to continue working to vaccinate the estimated 43,000 healthcare personnel in DuPage County which is expected to take several weeks. Early protection of health care personnel is critical to preserve capacity to care

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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.

for patients with COVID-19 or other illnesses. Long-term care facilities are the other priority population in Phase 1a, and will receive vaccinations through a Federal program, called the Pharmacy Partnership Program.

“We know health care workers have a much higher risk of COVID-19 exposure as they are on the frontlines of this devastating pandemic. It is imperative that we protect the health and safety of this essential workforce,” commented Karen Ayala, DCHD Executive Director. “We are working to ensure all health care workers throughout the county have access to this life-saving tool, protecting not only them but also their patients, families, and our communities.”

At this time, the healthcare systems are working through their staff members and affiliated health staff to assure adequate coverage across the community. DCHD is preparing to open COVID-19 vaccine clinics for EMS and other healthcare personnel (dentists, physical therapists, hospice workers, home health care) who are not affiliated with hospitals starting next week. At this appointment, healthcare personnel will be required to present verification of their healthcare worker status, i.e., employee ID badge, check stub, state licensure, or certificate. Any personnel in this category, who are interested in signing up to be notified about DCHD’s vaccination clinics, should register for [COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Updates](#). This will allow the Health Department to reach back out to individuals and organizations when it is time for their vaccinations to be provided. Healthcare personnel who are affiliated with a health system are advised to contact their health system to coordinate vaccination.

The Health Department continues to work with partners at all levels, including hospitals, health care providers, pharmacies, and community leaders, on flexible COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines and scenarios. Our goal is to make vaccine available through as many locations as possible, as the vaccine supply increases and becomes more widely available. We will share additional information about how and where vaccine will be available at www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine.

As the holidays approach, the health department reminds residents to celebrate safely and continue to do their part in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Wearing a mask whenever outside your home or with anyone not from your household;
- Watching your distance, staying at least 6 feet from people outside of your immediate household and avoiding in-person gatherings;
- Washing your hands often; and

- Staying 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 contacting your healthcare provider for appropriate evaluation, testing, and care.

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

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