

Media Inquiries:

(630) 221-7374
media@dupagehealth.org

**DuPage County
Board of Health**

Sam Tornatore, J.D.
President

Lanny Wilson, M.D.
Vice President

Robert Spadoni, J.D.
Secretary/Treasurer

Lori Bottoms

Melinda Finch

Janice Guider

Nadeem N. Hussain, M.D.

Uzma Muneer, D.O.

Lawrence J. Schouten, M.D.

James P. Weeks, D.D.S.

Karen Ayala, M.P.H.
Executive Director

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.

December 31, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Update

DuPage County— Since the first doses of vaccine were received on December 16, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and the health systems serving DuPage County are working to vaccinate as many healthcare personnel as possible as the vaccine supply increases. DCHD will be reporting the total number of vaccines distributed and administered in the county in the coming week. DCHD began vaccinating healthcare personnel on December 21 and is adding about 1,500 appointments each week to make vaccine available to any DuPage County healthcare personnel ready to be vaccinated, who are not able to be vaccinated through a hospital or health system. DCHD is also working to expand the number of vaccination sites in the county available to ensure residents can access vaccine.

The DCHD COVID-19 vaccine clinics are available by appointment only for EMS and other healthcare personnel (e.g., dentists, physical therapists, hospice workers, home health care) who are not affiliated with hospitals. Any personnel in this category should register for the [COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Update](#). This allows the Health Department to share weekly updates and contact individuals and organizations with opportunities to schedule an appointment as additional vaccine becomes available and in anticipation of a statewide registration system being rolled out. All healthcare personnel who schedule an appointment with DCHD will be required to present verification of their healthcare personnel status, i.e., employee ID badge, check stub, state licensure, or certificate at the time of their appointment.

Healthcare personnel who are affiliated with a health system are advised to contact their health system to coordinate vaccination. Currently, healthcare systems are working through their staff members and affiliated healthcare staff to assure adequate coverage across the community.

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



Long-term care residents and staff are the other priority population in Phase 1a, and will receive vaccinations onsite through a federal program, called the Pharmacy Partnership Program.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and their Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations as of Dec. 22, 2020, DCHD is following the multi-phased approach outlined below:

- **Phase 1a:** Healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents. DuPage County is currently in this phase.
- **Phase 1b:** Frontline essential workers and persons aged 75 years and older. More defining information will be provided by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).
- **Phase 1c:** People aged 65—74 years, people aged 16—64 years with underlying medical conditions, and other essential workers.

The Health Department continues to work with partners at all levels, including hospitals, healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community leaders, on equitable, flexible COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines and scenarios for all DuPage County populations eligible for vaccination. 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 New Year holiday approaches, the Health Department reminds residents to celebrate at home with the people they live with or virtually with friends and family. Travel and gatherings with family and friends who do not live in the same household can increase their chances of spreading or becoming infected with COVID-19 or influenza (the “flu”). Learn more about celebrating safely at [New Year’s Eve | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1229-new-year-s-eve.html).

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

###