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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.

January 6, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Update**

**DuPage County**—Since COVID-19 vaccine began arriving in DuPage County, over 18,000 healthcare workers who live or work in DuPage County have now been vaccinated, as of Jan. 4, 2021. This indicates the County being on track to complete the Phase 1a priority group, including an estimated 43,000 healthcare personnel (HCP), within the projected eight-week timeline. This also reflects that of the doses received, nearly 70% have been administered in DuPage County. Additionally, local hospitals are preparing to administer the second dose of vaccines starting this week.

DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) continues to coordinate the receipt and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine throughout DuPage County. As of Jan. 4, 2021, over 27,000 doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccine have been received and distributed in DuPage County. As vaccine supply increases and local capacity to administer vaccine expands, the Health Department expects the rate of vaccination will increase.

“Despite the challenges created by the Christmas and New Year’s holidays coinciding with the first several weeks of vaccine distribution, we are very pleased with the number of vaccines administered to healthcare workers over the past three weeks. We are committed to ensuring all healthcare workers have access to this life-saving vaccine and are working to expand access to vaccine as quickly as possible,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.

The DCHD COVID-19 vaccine clinics continue offering about 1,500 appointments per week 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

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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.

DCHD is prioritizing administration of vaccine for HCP currently providing direct patient care services who live, work, or attend school in DuPage County. 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.

“We also want to assure our residents in the Phase 1b and 1c priority groups—and beyond, that we are working tirelessly to prepare for the major scale effort it will take to vaccinate these groups in an equitable and timely manner. Furthermore, we are working closely with the state as they prepare to launch their statewide registration system. As more updates become available, this information will be shared on our website, social media channels, and weekly newsletter,” stated Ayala.

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. Additional information about DuPage County vaccine planning and related updates will be posted at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine).

The Health Department reminds residents to 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](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19).

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