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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 27, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## DuPage County Begins Transition to Phase 1b

**DuPage County**—As of today, 58,575 COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered to DuPage County residents, and 1.7%, or 15,815 individuals, have been fully vaccinated. This represents over 12,000 doses administered in the past week. This week, DuPage County began its transition to vaccinate individuals in Phase 1b with some local providers vaccinating their eligible patients or clients.

Although a much more robust COVID-19 vaccine supply is needed to allocate to all of our vaccine partners and open appointments, the County has moved into the next priority group for vaccinations. Currently, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is receiving and distributing an average total of less than 14,000 vaccines per week.

Still, DCHD is expanding the number of providers who are receiving vaccine each week. Since December, the number of sites receiving vaccine in DuPage County has increased from 8 to 42. Many of these providers are already vaccinating their healthcare personnel employees and patients.

As we move into Phase 1b, these sites will begin to vaccinate those in 1b and will be communicating and opening appointments based on the vaccine supply. Additionally, a limited number of retail pharmacies like Jewel-Osco, Mariano's, and Walgreens have opened appointments to individuals in the 1b group. The DCHD COVID-19 on-site vaccine clinics continue to vaccinate between 1,500 – 2,000 individuals per week.

“We, too, are anxious to vaccinate all of our residents who are now eligible to receive the vaccine. But as vaccine supply remains severely limited, we continue to ask residents for their understanding. Our staff continue working to expand vaccine capacity throughout the county while supporting ongoing vaccine efforts. At this time, we can only administer

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the vaccine that is available to us each week through both the Health Department and our network of partner providers in the community,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. “Once vaccine supply increases, we are confident that the network of providers that we have built will get this life-saving vaccine administered as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

Anyone who lives or works in DuPage County should register for updates about when and where COVID-19 vaccine will be available at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine). However, if opportunities become available through pharmacies, healthcare providers, or medical groups, people should register there and get vaccinated at the first opportunity available. As vaccine supply increases, the Health Department will share more information about the specific locations people will be able to contact to schedule appointments for the vaccine.

Next month, the current DCHD COVID-19 vaccine clinic in Wheaton will be moving to the Fairgrounds. The new location will provide an opportunity to increase the number of vaccines administered each week as vaccine supply increases. As a reminder, DCHD’s vaccine clinic is only one of many vaccination sites throughout DuPage County. Currently, many other providers are vaccinating clients or patients and communicating with them directly about where to register and where they will be vaccinated.

As residents wait for vaccine to be available to them, the Health Department urges everyone to stay vigilant 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 are available at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19).

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