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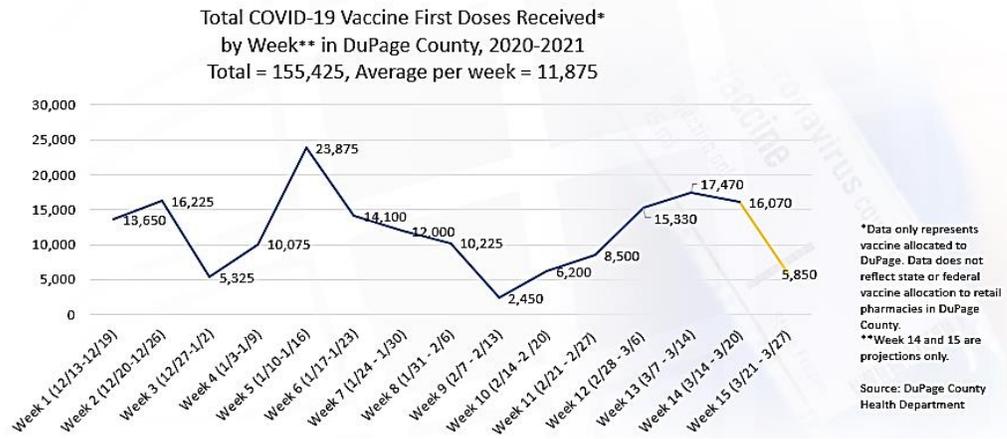
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Executive Director

March 16, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Over 200,000 DuPage Residents Have Received at Least One Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine and DuPage County COVID-19 Vaccine Network Is Poised to Expand When Vaccine Supply Allows

DuPage County—DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) continues to build a countywide COVID-19 vaccine network that can administer vaccines as quickly as they become available. Currently, DCHD and other local vaccine providers have created the capacity to administer more than 65,700 vaccine doses per week. These providers have been working tirelessly since December to vaccinate eligible individuals who live or work in DuPage County. Since December, over 200,000 DuPage County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

However, these efforts have been hampered by low vaccine supply as, once again, DuPage County vaccine first doses are projected to sharply decrease the week of Mar. 29 when just 5,850 first doses are projected to arrive. Over the past four weeks, DCHD has received an average of 11,875 first doses per week. This week, 17,470 first vaccine doses are expected in DuPage County. These first doses will be distributed across the countywide vaccine network.



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.

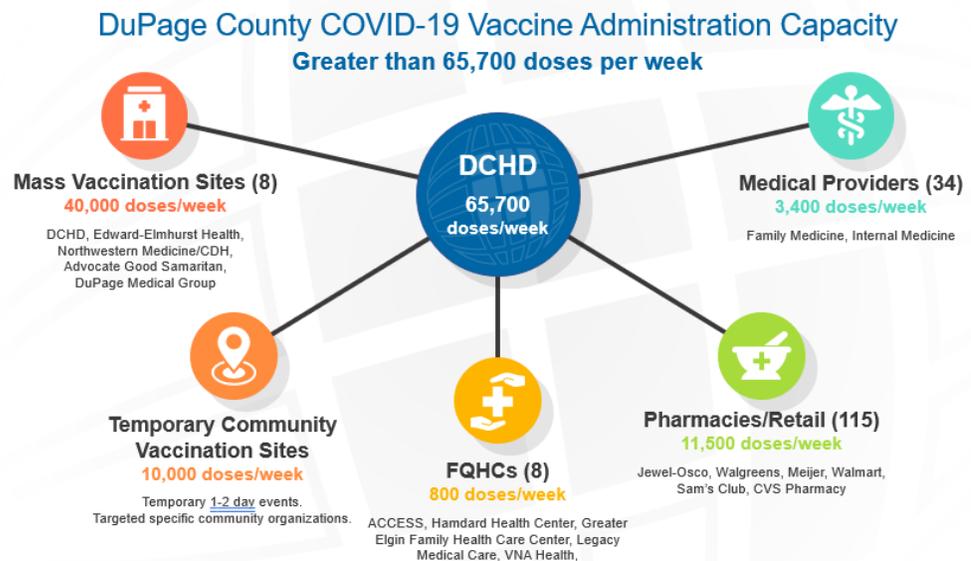
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“Unfortunately, the vaccine supply we receive from the State each week remains unstable. This uncertainty makes our vaccine planning and distribution incredibly challenging. We understand the importance of getting this vaccine into the arms of our residents as quickly and efficiently as possible, but it becomes difficult when the supply allocated to us is severely limited. Thus, we continue to advocate to receive more first vaccine doses to match the percentage of our population in DuPage County—the second-most populous county in Illinois,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director for DuPage County Health Department.

The countywide vaccine network includes eight mass vaccination sites operated by the DuPage County Health Department, Edward-Elmhurst Health, Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, and DuPage Medical Group operating on a routine basis. Additionally, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), pharmacies, medical providers, and temporary community vaccination sites are important partners in this countywide system. These vaccination partners also support the Health Department’s efforts to distribute vaccines directly into communities. By doing so, residents have local and convenient access to vaccines through trusted healthcare vaccination partners within their communities. Some retail pharmacies and FQHCs have also begun receiving vaccine directly from the state and federal government, significantly boosting the amount of vaccine in DuPage County.



Additionally, DCHD is committed to ensuring vaccine equity among some of the most vulnerable communities in DuPage County. To achieve this, DCHD uses the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) which indicates the relative vulnerability of every U.S. Census tract. The SVI ranks the tracts using 15 social factors, including unemployment, minority status, and disability, and further groups them into four related themes. Taking that information into consideration, the DuPage County COVID-19 Health Equity and

Access Response Team (HEART) has supported these efforts and helped connect vaccine resources to communities and groups that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

“We are confident that as we continue to vaccinate more people, including those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, the transmission of this relentless virus will slow in our communities and help us save more lives,” said Ayala.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and distribution plans in DuPage County, visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine.

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