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March 24, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DuPage County Health Department Announces Plan to Expand  
COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility to Phase 1b Plus**

*With More Than 67 Percent of Residents 65 Years and Older Vaccinated*

**DuPage County**—Beginning today, Mar. 24, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) will expand COVID-19 vaccine appointment opportunities to individuals who are eligible in [Phase 1b Plus](#), including persons 16 to 64 years old with comorbidities and underlying conditions, as well as individuals with disabilities. In DuPage County, an estimated 174,443 DuPage County residents will become newly eligible in Phase 1b Plus.

As of today, Mar. 24, more than 248,500 DuPage County residents have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 144,920, or 15.61 percent, of residents, are fully vaccinated. This represents the administration of more than 48,000 doses of vaccine in the past week to DuPage County residents. Of those vaccinated, 104,767, or 67.8 percent, are residents 65 years and older who have received at least one COVID-19 dose.

“Although vaccine supply remains extremely limited, we are making significant progress in vaccinating some of the most vulnerable people in our communities,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. “Getting vaccines into the arms of our residents is our highest and most urgent priority. As we move into this new priority group, we remind residents in Phase 1a and 1b, that it is not too late to get vaccinated as we continue working to get everyone in these groups vaccinated as quickly and equitably as possible. For those residents still waiting for their turn, please know we are working our way to you and will make sure that everyone who wants a vaccine gets vaccinated.”

This week, DCHD received 23,490 first doses of COVID-19 vaccines. From this allocation, 6,280 doses were distributed to medical practices, 10,960 doses were distributed to hospitals, 300 doses were distributed to pharmacies, 100 doses were distributed to Federally Qualified Health Centers, and 5,850 doses are supplying the DCHD Community Vaccination Clinic. DCHD partnered with the Illinois Department of Public Health to ensure additional vaccine doses were available to

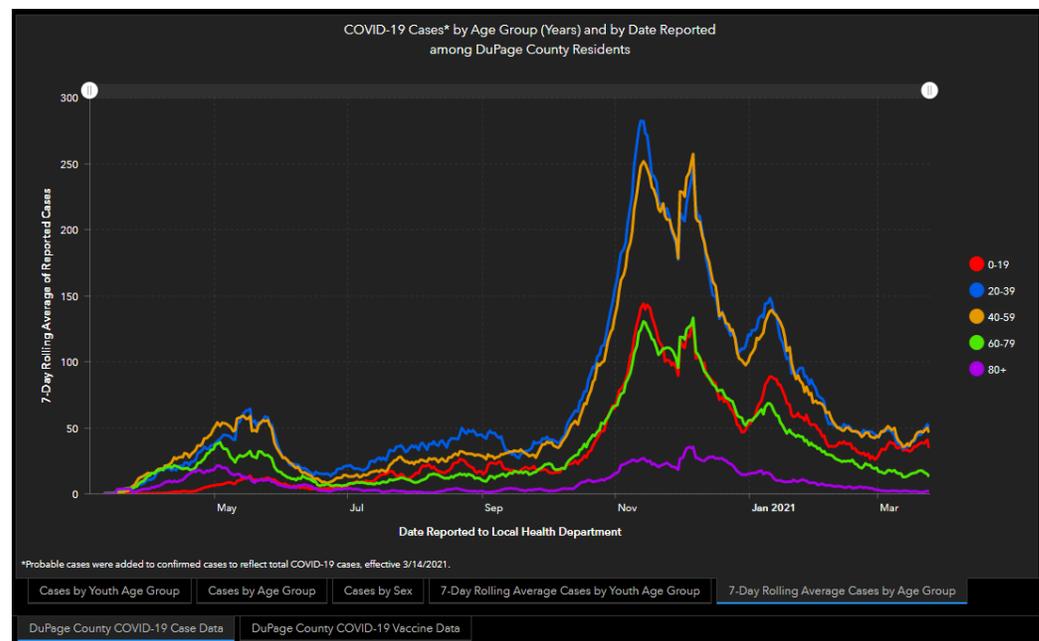
Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

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support the Community Vaccination Site at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Additional county-specific vaccine data, including first dose allocations by week and allocations by provider type, are available on the COVID-19 Dashboard at [dupagehealth.org/covid19data](https://dupagehealth.org/covid19data).

Of concern, DCHD is observing an increase in new COVID-19 daily cases being reported, as well as an increase in the seven-day rolling average positivity rate. This increase in cases coupled with an increase of local COVID-19-related hospitalizations is concerning as DCHD continues efforts to vaccinate residents. The graph below shows a recent uptick in case activity for all age groups except in persons 80 years and older. For additional COVID-19 case data in DuPage, view the DuPage County COVID-19 Dashboard at [dupagehealth.org/covid19data](https://dupagehealth.org/covid19data). Furthermore, DCHD has received confirmation of an additional four cases of the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7, for a total of seven cases in DuPage County since Jan. 2021. This variant is classified as a [COVID-19 variant of concern \(VOC\)](#) as it spreads more easily and quickly than other variants, and likely causes more severe disease based on hospitalizations and case-fatality rates. In Illinois, 167 cases of the B.1.1.7 variant have been reported as of Mar. 23.



Source: [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data](https://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data) Accessed 3/24/2021.

DCHD urges residents to continue practicing the steps that will limit the spread of this virus and its variants. This includes wearing a well-fitted mask consistently and correctly, physical distancing, avoiding in-person gatherings, washing hands frequently, isolating or quarantining when necessary, and getting the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible.

As a reminder, eligible DuPage County and Illinois residents should register on DCHD's website to be notified of upcoming appointments at [dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](http://dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine), or call (630) 682-7400 if assistance is needed with registration. Everyone who is registered is also encouraged to contact their primary care doctor or local retail pharmacy for vaccine and appointment availability and explore additional opportunities through other vaccine providers in their area. For a list of available locations, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccinelocations](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccinelocations).

Additional COVID-19 vaccine information about local efforts, frequently asked questions, vaccination data, and more is available at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine).

For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois' response and guidance, call 1-800-889- 3931 or email [DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV).

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