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April 1, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than 460,000 Vaccine Doses Administered to DuPage County Residents

DuPage County— As of today, Apr. 1, 464,334 doses have been administered into the arms of DuPage County residents, which represents the administration of more than 50,000 doses of vaccine in the past week. Additionally, 168,993, or 18.2 percent, of DuPage County residents are now fully vaccinated, and 79.4 percent of residents 65 years and older have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

DuPage County has expanded eligibility to additional priority groups, in alignment with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines. Individuals eligible in Phase 1a, 1b, and 1b Plus can register for vaccination appointments in DuPage County at www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine. However, DCHD may still prioritize appointment opportunities for eligible individuals in earlier phases. This prioritization will help ensure individuals at higher risk of exposure and severe health outcomes are provided with opportunities to be vaccinated. Phase 1b Plus includes individuals age 16 to 64 years with underlying health conditions and now includes additional essential workers, including government employees, higher education staff, news media, restaurant staff, construction trade workers, and religious leaders.

Earlier this month, the DuPage County COVID-19 Health Equity and Access Response Team (HEART) surveyed DuPage County residents to gain a better understanding of questions and concerns that people have about COVID-19 vaccination. More than 3,700 residents participated in the survey and provided valuable information about their interest and concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Some participants shared uncertainties around the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. A newly issued Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the mRNA vaccines are effective in preventing COVID-19 infection in real-world conditions. This study of nearly 4,000 health care personnel, first responders, and essential workers confirmed individuals who were fully vaccinated were 90

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.

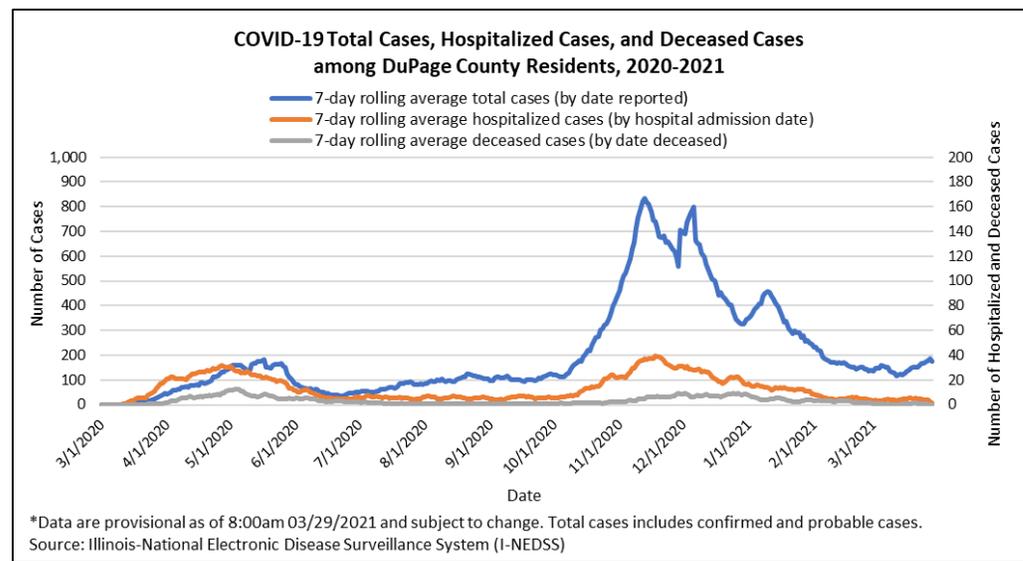
**-More-
STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



percent less likely to become infected. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7013e3.htm>.

DCHD is closely monitoring reports of COVID-19 variants in our local communities. To date, DCHD has received confirmation of 16 cases of B.1.1.7, three cases of P.1, and two cases of B.1.429 variants in DuPage County. These variants are classified as [COVID-19 variants of concern \(VOC\)](#) as they spread more easily and quickly than other variants, and likely cause more severe disease based on hospitalizations and case-fatality rates. In Illinois, 276 cases of B.1.1.7, 33 cases of P.1, and 39 cases of B.1.427/429 variants have been reported as of Apr. 1.

“While vaccination rates are increasing, reports of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are beginning to rise as well. We must not let our guard down during this critical time. Please continue to wear your mask, watch your distance, and wash your hands to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and the variants that are circulating across the country, including here in DuPage County and Illinois,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department.



As the virus continues to spread, DCHD urges residents to continue practicing the measures that will limit the spread of this virus and its variants. Per the above graph, previous upticks in cases have resulted in surges of case activity, which have been followed by increases in hospitalizations and tragic increases in COVID-19-related deaths; acting now can help prevent these severe outcomes. These critical measures include 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.

This week, DCHD received 21,110 first doses of COVID-19 vaccines as well as the first shipments of the Janssen vaccine. From this allocation, 5,440 doses were distributed to medical practices, 7,050 doses were distributed to hospitals, 500 doses were distributed to pharmacies, 200 doses were distributed to Federally Qualified Health Centers, 500 doses were distributed to Urgent Cares and 7,420 doses are supplying the DCHD Community Vaccination Clinic. The Janssen vaccines are being prioritized for individuals who may have the greatest difficulty accessing two appointments. Additional county-specific vaccine data, including first dose allocations by week and allocations by provider type, are available on the COVID-19 Dashboard at www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data.

DuPage County and Illinois residents who are eligible should register on DCHD's website to be notified of upcoming appointments at www.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.

Additional COVID-19 vaccine information about local efforts, frequently asked questions, vaccination data, and more is available at 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.

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