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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.

April 21, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than 400,000 DuPage County Residents Have Been Vaccinated with at Least One COVID-19 Vaccine Dose
Over 50 Percent of Eligible Residents Vaccinated with at Least One Dose.

DuPage County—As of today, 280,503, or 30.2 percent, of DuPage County residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Additionally, 86.5 percent of DuPage County residents ages 65 years and older have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. Based on data from Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), DuPage County currently has the highest percentage of all 102 counties with 44 percent of the total population vaccinated with at least one dose. In the past week, more than 70,000 vaccine doses were administered into the arms of DuPage County residents for a total of 690,802 doses administered to date.

Since COVID-19 vaccinations began in December, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and local vaccine provider partners have been working tirelessly to vaccinate eligible individuals as quickly as supply has allowed. According to the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE) data, DuPage County vaccine providers have administered more than 540,720 COVID-19 vaccine doses to eligible individuals through Apr. 13. Of the over half a million doses administered, slightly over 50 percent were given to DuPage County residents; the remainder were given to out-of-county residents including many individuals who work in DuPage and support our communities.

“We are incredibly thankful to our wonderful vaccine provider partners who have been a tremendous asset in vaccinating so many eligible individuals as quickly and equitably as possible in our county,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. “It remains critical that as vaccine availability increases throughout our county, residents 16 years of age and older continue to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to help protect themselves, their family, their friends, and their community.”

Despite the increase in vaccinated residents, COVID-19 community transmission levels remain substantial. The highest case activity continues to be observed in

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



WEAR
A MASK



WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH
YOUR HANDS

-More-

youth aged 5-19 years as well as adults in the 20 to 39-year-old and 40 to 59-year-old age groups. Today, local hospitals reported 110 COVID-19 related hospitalizations in daily census reports including 25 patients in the intensive-care unit (ICU). Both hospitalizations and the number of patients reported in ICU care have increased significantly since March 15. Additionally, DCHD is closely monitoring reports of COVID-19 variants in the 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. Based on national and state-level genomic surveillance efforts to date, 80 cases of B.1.1.7, six cases of P.1, and four cases of B.1.427/B.1.429 variants have been identified in DuPage County. In Illinois, 1,141 cases of B.1.1.7, 328 cases of P.1, and 97 cases of B.1.427/429 variants have been reported as of Apr. 20.

Vaccines are a safe and effective public health tool, critical to stopping the further spread of illness and preventing severe disease and death related to COVID-19. However, a small percentage of people who are fully vaccinated may still get COVID-19, with or without symptoms, and possibly spread the virus to others. These are called “vaccine breakthrough cases.” This means that while people who have been vaccinated are much less likely to get sick, it may still happen. Experts continue to study how common these cases are.

Despite the low likelihood of breakthrough infection, DCHD strongly recommends all eligible persons to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as it is available to them. Because there is a chance that someone could still get sick and possibly spread COVID-19 to others after being fully vaccinated, everyone should continue to take everyday actions to protect themselves and others, like wearing a mask, maintaining physical distance, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and washing hands often, especially while COVID-19 activity is high in DuPage County. In addition, to help interrupt community spread, persons with COVID-19 infection need to self-isolate (e.g., stay home except for medical care) and their close contacts need to self-quarantine unless they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have had COVID-19 infection within three months of exposure. For general information about breakthrough cases, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/why-measure-effectiveness/breakthrough-cases.html>.

This week, DCHD received 43,790 first doses of vaccine, which was an increase of 23,790 doses from last week. From this allocation, 16,170 doses were distributed to medical practices, 2,000 doses to home health providers, 1,500 doses were distributed to occupational health centers, 11,360 doses were distributed to hospitals, 1,400 doses were distributed to pharmacies, 1,970 doses were distributed to Federally Qualified Health Centers, 1,200 doses were distributed to urgent care centers, and 8,190 doses are supplying the DCHD Community Vaccination Clinic.

-Page 3-

For county-specific vaccine data, including first dose allocations by week and allocations by provider type, view the COVID-19 Dashboard at www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data.

All DuPage County and Illinois residents ages 16 years and older are encouraged to register for vaccination appointments in DuPage County at www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine, or call (630) 682-7400 if assistance is needed with registration. With some providers receiving vaccine directly from the state or federal government, DCHD encourages eligible residents to contact their primary care doctor, local retail pharmacies, and other vaccine providers in their area for other vaccine appointment opportunities, to get vaccinated at the first opportunity available to them. For a list of COVID-19 vaccination 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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