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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department Partners with Local First Responders to Vaccinate Homebound Residents

DuPage County—The DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) is partnering with the DuPage County Fire Chiefs Association, Region 8 Emergency Medical Service System (EMS), and local Fire Departments to expand current efforts to vaccinate homebound individuals in DuPage County. This partnership will help ensure that any homebound individual who cannot safely leave their residence is able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

To support the homebound vaccination program, DCHD is maintaining and coordinating a list of homebound individuals who have registered for COVID-19 vaccine as well as providing the necessary vaccine and supplies to perform this critical work. Any individuals, age 16 years and older, who are homebound or have difficulty getting to a vaccination clinic are eligible for the program and may register at www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineregistration, or call (630) 682-7400 for assistance.

“We are committed to protecting all of our residents, especially our most vulnerable, and this partnership allows us the ability to expand access to vaccine for individuals who are homebound or who cannot get to a vaccination site,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. “We are incredibly grateful to the DuPage County Fire Chiefs Association and EMS Medical Directors, including Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Edward Hospital, and Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital for their partnership in developing this much-needed program.”

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response, the DuPage Fire Chiefs Association has partnered with DCHD to protect the health and safety of our residents in DuPage County from COVID-19. The DuPage Fire Chiefs Association has agreed to provide the necessary manpower and equipment to vaccinate homebound individuals throughout the County.

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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“This is an exciting opportunity for the DuPage County Fire Service to support our local health department and meet the needs of our residents,” according to Chief Keith Krestan, President of the DuPage Fire Chiefs Association.

The system protocols for this program were developed by Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital who worked with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to expand the number of vaccinators available to support this critical work within DuPage County.

“EMS paramedics are our eyes into the community, and they’ve seen the impact of COVID-19 on those most vulnerable like our homebound population,” said Dr. Valerie Phillips, Medical Director of Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital’s EMS program. “Our paramedics were eager to help by vaccinating our homebound residents. This partnership is the perfect example of community healthcare coming together to help people.”

Fire department paramedics will administer COVID-19 vaccines to eligible residents in their homes. The EMS systems will provide the medical oversight of the paramedics within their systems. On Friday, Apr. 30, the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District and Naperville Fire Department piloted the program and provided vaccinations for 10 homebound individuals in their homes.

“Homebound residents that received their vaccination were very grateful that the firefighters were giving the shots,” said Chief Krestan.

This homebound vaccination program is expected to expand in the coming weeks, with support from additional local fire departments and EMS systems.

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