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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.

May 12, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DuPage County COVID-19 Vaccine Providers to Begin Vaccinating Children Ages 12 to 15 Years Old This Week**

**DuPage County**—Beginning tomorrow, May 13, several healthcare vaccine providers throughout DuPage County are planning to open COVID-19 vaccinations to children ages 12 to 15 years old. DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) will open vaccinations to this age group by Monday, May 17. Parents can begin to register their 12 to 15 year old children at [dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineregistration](https://dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineregistration) to schedule an appointment with DCHD. For vaccine providers beginning vaccinations tomorrow, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine](https://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccine).

“Vaccinating our adolescents is a high priority and will be critical in our efforts to put an end to this pandemic and protect the health and well-being of our residents,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. “The studies show this vaccine is safe and highly effective in children. We encourage parents to get themselves and their eligible children vaccinated as soon as they are able. Vaccinations will help protect our children and get them back to their friends and activities they love.”

As of May 12, about 42 percent, or 388,951, of DuPage County residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Of the DuPage County residents currently eligible, 64 percent, or 473,780, have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. Additionally, 91 percent of DuPage County residents ages 65 years and older have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. In the past week, more than 57,000 vaccine doses were administered into the arms of DuPage County residents for a total of 862,731 doses administered to date.

This week, in addition to the DCHD Vaccination Clinic’s weekday and Saturday hours, DCHD will begin offering evening hours on Thursday nights for individuals who may need evening options. Walk-ins are welcome Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Although no appointment is necessary, pre-

**-More-  
STAY SAFE  
DUPAGE**



**WEAR  
A MASK**



**WATCH  
YOUR DISTANCE**



**WASH  
YOUR HANDS**

registration is encouraged to save time. For information about what to expect and how to prepare, visit [www.dupagehealth.org/688/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinic-DuPage-Count](http://www.dupagehealth.org/688/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinic-DuPage-Count).

DuPage County residents, 16 years and older, who are homebound or who cannot safely leave their residence to visit a vaccination clinic are eligible to be vaccinated through our homebound vaccination program and should register at [www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineregistration](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineregistration), or call (630) 682-7400 for assistance. When registering, the form will provide an opportunity to indicate you require homebound services. To date, DCHD staff and paramedics have vaccinated 67 individuals at home.

DCHD continues to work towards achieving the goal of vaccinating 80 percent of eligible DuPage County residents by July 1. To help do so, DCHD is partnering with municipalities, businesses, and community-based organizations to bring smaller COVID-19 vaccine clinics closer to individuals who have not yet been vaccinated. These smaller COVID-19 vaccine clinics can administer a scalable number of vaccines depending on the demand at a particular event and day/time. Clinics are available for 10-50 individuals or 51-200 individuals. To request an on-site mobile vaccination clinic, please complete [this form](#) or learn more at [www.dupagehealth.org/692/COVID-19-Vaccine-Organizations](http://www.dupagehealth.org/692/COVID-19-Vaccine-Organizations).

As vaccination efforts continue throughout DuPage County, residents are reminded of the substantial COVID-19 community transmission levels. The highest case activity continues to be observed in unvaccinated adults 20 to 39-years-old and 40 to 59-years-old as well as youth 5 to 19-years-old. 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. More information on COVID-19 variants is available at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/index.html).

To help limit the spread of this virus and its variants, all residents should continue practicing preventive measures which include wearing a well-fitted mask consistently and correctly, physical distancing, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, washing hands frequently, and getting the COVID-19 vaccine. 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. Updated recommendations on masking based on vaccination status and setting are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>.

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For DuPage 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](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19data).

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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