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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 19, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than 45 Percent of DuPage County Residents Are Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19

62 Percent of Eligible Residents Have Received at Least One Dose

DuPage County—As of May 19, more than 45 percent, or 419,378, of DuPage County residents have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Of the DuPage County residents currently eligible, 53 percent have been fully vaccinated and 62 percent have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. Additionally, 85 percent of DuPage County residents ages 65 years and older are fully vaccinated and 92 percent have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. In the past week, more than 43,000 vaccine doses were administered into the arms of DuPage County residents for a total of 905,761 doses administered to date.

The DCHD Community Vaccination Clinic at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton offers COVID-19 vaccines to persons 12 years and older. To date, the DCHD vaccination clinic has provided more than 90,000 vaccinations. Walk-in hours are available on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Anyone under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Visitors are encouraged to save time by pre-registering. For more information about what to expect and how to prepare, visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19vaccineclinic.

Earlier this week, Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) aligned state executive orders with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mask guidance. Based on the guidance provided by CDC and IDPH, persons fully vaccinated against COVID-19 no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in most settings. Those who are not fully vaccinated are expected to continue wearing masks when in public settings with people they do not live with, especially when physical distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained. However, masks continue to be required in some settings regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, including healthcare, congregate facilities, schools, and public transportation. Furthermore, businesses and workplaces may choose to continue mask requirements for their locations if desired. DCHD expects guidance

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will continue to evolve and additional updates from CDC and IDPH will be provided when available.

As vaccination progress continues in DuPage County and masking is no longer required in many settings for persons fully vaccinated, residents are reminded of the current substantial COVID-19 community transmission levels in DuPage County. 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, including variants of interest and variants of concern. Most recently, in addition to over 300 cases of COVID-19 variants of concern, DCHD has received reports of seven cases of B.1.617, a variant of interest which originated in India, identified in DuPage County residents. COVID-19 variants of concern 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.

To help limit the spread of this virus and its variants, all residents who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 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>.

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. To request an on-site mobile vaccination clinic, please complete this form or learn more at www.dupagehealth.org/692/COVID-19-Vaccine-Organizations.

DuPage County residents, 12 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, or call (630) 682-7400 for

assistance. When registering, the form will provide an opportunity to indicate homebound services are needed. To date, DCHD staff and paramedics have vaccinated 67 individuals at home.

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.

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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