

Media Inquiries:

(630) 221-7374
media@dupagehealth.org

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Executive Director

September 22, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vaccines Work at Preventing COVID-19 Severe Illness

DuPage County— COVID-19 vaccines continue to offer the best form of protection against COVID-19 and help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. In DuPage County, 96 percent of COVID-19 cases and 99 percent of related hospitalizations and deaths since December of 2020 have occurred in residents who are not fully vaccinated. The DuPage County Health Department is again urging eligible residents, aged 12 years and older, to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their community.

“With COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths occurring primarily in unvaccinated persons, it is evident the vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness from COVID-19,” said Karen Ayala, Executive Director of DuPage County Health Department. “COVID-19 vaccinations help keep our communities safe, our children in school, and protect those who are not yet eligible for vaccination.”

According to the latest [CDC COVID-19 vaccination data](#), 88 percent of eligible residents 12 years and older in DuPage County have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 70 percent are fully vaccinated. Of residents 65 years and older, 99.9 percent have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and 85 percent are fully vaccinated. However, among 12 to 17-year-olds in DuPage County, 78 percent have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, and only 59 percent are fully vaccinated. To help reduce spread in schools and the community, all unvaccinated persons aged 12 years and older are urged to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.

DCHD is actively monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19 boosters for fully vaccinated people. Last week, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory committee recommended a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for individuals 65 years of age and older and at high risk of severe COVID-19. These booster dose plans are dependent on a full

-More-

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



WEAR
A MASK



WATCH
YOUR DISTANCE



WASH
YOUR HANDS



GET
VACCINATED

111 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

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clinical review and recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which is currently scheduled to conduct this review on September 22-23, 2021. DCHD will share additional updates as more information becomes available.

For more information on COVID-19 in DuPage County, visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19. Anyone age 12 or older can find free vaccination opportunities near them by visiting www.vaccines.gov. No-cost testing is also available; visit www.dupagehealth.org/covid19testing for more information.

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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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.

**STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**

