

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 01-11-21

www.mmdhd.org

COVID-19 vaccination update

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has begun the process of administering the COVID-19 vaccine, but a limited supply is slowing our efforts.

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department reminds community members that there has been an unfortunate shortfall in the expected supply of COVID-19 vaccine across the country and most of the existing vaccines have already been allocated. We want to tell you what is being done to create more opportunities for vaccination.

MMDHD is currently vaccinating those in priority group 1A (first responders, health care, Adult Foster Cares, assisted living, skilled nursing, and home health care workers) and those in priority group 1B (those 65 years of age and older, first responders not vaccinated in 1A, corrections and jail staff, childcare providers, K-12 school staff, homeless shelter staff, drug rehabilitation center staff, transient living staff, and CPS workers). If you fall into one of these groups, you unfortunately may not be able to get vaccinated right away because of the vaccine supply shortage.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) website shows that our counties received a total of 8,900 doses of vaccine. However, most of those doses went to other health care providers. MMDHD only received 1,600 doses for Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm counties. Most people will actually be vaccinated by another health care provider, not the health department.

Those wishing to make an appointment to get vaccinated at the health department should visit our website at www.mmdhd.org. Unfortunately, all of our clinics are currently full, but be sure to check our website often as we may have cancellations. When we receive more vaccine, additional clinics will be added and posted on our website. As soon as other health care providers share links to their vaccination clinics, we will put those on our website as well.

MMDHD is doing five things right now to increase access to the vaccine:

1. We are ordering Pfizer vaccine, but the supply is limited. We will set up clinics staffed by the National Guard and will let our communities know when that occurs.
2. We are ordering vaccine to share with area pharmacies, but it will take time before it is received. It would be ideal if people could get vaccinated at their pharmacy, just like the flu shot.
3. Only 1/3 of area health care providers currently offer COVID vaccinations. We are helping them get certified to offer the vaccine so people can get vaccinated by their own doctor. Some hospitals have already started emailing their patients about this option.

2- COVID-19 vaccination update

4. We will be partnering with area agencies on aging to help senior citizens who have difficulty with transportation to get to a vaccination location.
5. We know scheduling an appointment online might be difficult for some of our elderly residents or those with no access to a computer or the internet. Community partners are being recruited to assist with scheduling, but in the meantime, we are encouraging them to ask a family member, friend, or neighbor with internet access to help them schedule an appointment. Additional options will be posted on our website as soon as they are finalized. You can also call 211 for assistance.

If you would like to be notified when we schedule additional clinics, you may sign up to receive our E-newsletter by visiting our website at www.mmdhd.org and looking for the “sign up for updates” section of our home page.

MMDHD is currently administering the Moderna vaccine. A second dose is required 28 days after the first dose. Instructions on when to return to receive your second dose will be given at your first vaccination appointment.

Our phone line is experiencing high call volume, so if you need to call one of our offices, you can expect delays. We have had numerous people call our office to ask how to schedule an appointment or to let us know that the COVID-19 clinics shown on our website are full. We ask that you refrain from calling for these reasons because our phone line is not able to handle such a high volume of calls.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported earlier in the month that local public health departments would be receiving a shipment of KN95 masks that the public could have for free. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department has not received the shipment yet, but when it does will place a notice on our website.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties.

We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.

Advancing innovative solutions to achieve healthier outcomes

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