

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/5/21

www.mmdhd.org

Mid-Michigan District Health Department begins administering COVID-19 vaccine

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) began the monumental task of administering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to priority groups on December 28.

Those priority groups include emergency medical services (EMS), medical first responders, and frontline health care workers not already being vaccinated through their hospital or organization. Staff and residents at skilled nursing facilities will be vaccinated through national pharmacy chains, in coordination with the federal government.

It will take time for MMDHD to work through the priority groups and get to the point where the vaccine will be available to the general public. Until then, residents should continue to wear their face masks, practice social distancing, wash hands often, and follow isolation and quarantine guidelines when appropriate.

Residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm counties who would like to be notified when the vaccine will be available to them should visit www.mmdhd.org/covid-center/ and fill out the "Vaccine Notification" form.

Businesses that would like its employees vaccinated may call MMDHD and request to be added to the notification list. Clinton County businesses should call 989-224-2195, option 2. Gratiot County businesses should call 989-875-3681, option 2. Montcalm County businesses should call 989-831-5237, option 2.

The Moderna vaccine requires two doses, 28 days apart. Individuals should receive both doses to be considered fully protected. There is no out-of-pocket cost to individuals for the vaccine.

The vaccine cannot give someone COVID-19. The vaccine gives your body a code which helps it recognize the virus, so your body can fight it off in the future. After vaccination, it is common to experience some mild side effects, which is a normal sign that your body is building protection from the virus. If side effects are experienced, they last no more than one or two days and may include injection site pain, a low-grade fever, and headache.

Both the Moderna and the Pfizer vaccines have undergone the same rigorous process that was used to create safe and effective vaccines for the flu, polio, measles, whooping cough and more. While the COVID-19 vaccines were developed rather quickly, no steps were skipped in their development. Instead, modifications to the process were made to shorten the timeline without sacrificing safety. These include:

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- Overlapping phase I and phase II clinical trials.
- Beginning the manufacturing process during phase III clinical trials.
- Developing vaccine delivery plans prior to approval.

For the latest COVID-19 information, including vaccine distribution and explanation of the priority groups, visit www.mmdhd.org and click on the Coronavirus banner at the top of the page.



MMDHD Health Officer Marcus Cheatham receives his COVID-19 vaccination from Public Health Nurse Becky Stoddard.



MMDHD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Hailey Brewer receives her COVID-19 vaccination from Public Health Nurse Bethann McPherson.



Gratiot County Sheriff Michael Morris receives his COVID-19 vaccination from Public Health Nurse Bethann McPherson.

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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