

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

The latest update on vaccine in Medina County

Over the last several weeks, the Health Department has worked with Emergency Medical Service responders and direct-care medical professionals as part of Phase 1A of the vaccine roll out. As directed by the State of Ohio, we have moved on to Phase 1B and have begun vaccinating citizens 80 years of age and older.

Last week, registration was opened by phone in our attempt to provide one-on-one service to our older population. The response was overwhelming, and we appreciate citizens' patience as we worked through those calls. Anyone 80+ who left a message or spoke with a staff member has their name on our list. Names are not being taken at this time for younger age groups.

For this week, the Health Department is teaming up with Summa Health Systems and Discount Drug Mart to offer 750 doses of vaccine at two different community clinics. In addition to the Health Department, 13 other providers in Medina County will have vaccine for Phase 1B populations this week. A list of locations and registration details is available on our website at medinahealth.org/vaccine.

If you're anything like me, the amount of information floating around our news, online, and throughout the community has felt like a whirlwind. As a citizen of Medina County myself, I know how anxious everyone is to get the vaccine. I want everyone to feel safe from this virus we've all been battling for so long. As my commitment has been since last March, the Health Department is working around the clock, seven days a week to do everything we can to make that happen.

What to expect next

We are continuing to work through our 80 and older population. The Governor and Ohio Department of Health have made available their plan to move through the next phases in the coming weeks. Working through these groups will be dependent on how much vaccine we receive locally. The Health Department is assessing data from those next populations and we are working to make plans based on that information.

The Health Department has the ability to schedule large vaccine clinics very quickly. Once it's confirmed how much vaccine we will receive each week, appointments are scheduled very quickly. If a person does not show up to their appointment, there are protocols in place to get that dose to someone else. No dose will go unused.

An update on data

Data this week is showing a slight dip in new cases. The lower case count is always welcome news, but the rate in which things change makes it too early to tell if this is a trend or not. If you are sick or know you have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, please continue to be diligent in staying away from others and seek testing. The vaccine is on top of everyone's mind, but it will still be quite some time before it becomes widely available. Being mindful in your interactions and taking precautions are still our best defense against the virus.

Where can I find the latest information?

As information is made available, we will continue to update our website with resources about the vaccine:

<https://medinahealth.org/vaccine>. You are also encouraged to visit the Ohio Department of Health's website for resources related to the COVID-19 vaccine: coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine.