

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dear Community Members:

The latest update on vaccine in Medina County

Much like all things related to coronavirus, the vaccine rollout has been unprecedented. With highs and lows, confusion and uncertainty, the nation as a whole continues to take this process day by day, working to make adjustments, improvements, and changes to keep up with the ever-evolving situation.

If you or a family member called the Health Department and left details of name, age, and phone number with us then you are on our list. If you receive an appointment from another provider, that is just fine. We place calls to residents on our list when we have vaccine available. If we call and you have already received vaccine or an appointment somewhere else, we will simply move to the next person.

I know that the very best customer service would be to call and confirm your spot in line, or acknowledge that we received your message. This is the type of service you expect and we usually deliver. The biggest limitation to calling people on our list is the small amount of vaccine coming in each week compared to the number of names.

Complaints about vaccine allotments is not unique to Medina County. The Health Department and other providers certainly request and are capable of administering far more vaccine than what we are getting. Doses are allocated to each county on a population basis. This week, there are 1,600 available doses in Medina County spread among 14 different providers. The Health Department website lists each of these and gives details on how residents can secure a spot on a provider list.

As additional groups of people become eligible and vaccine becomes more widely available, public health will continue to work to make improvements and changes to processes to ensure it's as easily accessible as possible.

What to expect next

The Health Department is scheduling appointments based on weekly vaccine allocations. The Governor announced he will pause in opening up eligibility to other groups after next week in order to reassess and allow counties to further work through waiting lists. Any information on what the next phase of vaccines will look like is forthcoming.

An update on data

We've made it through another week where cases appear to be trending downward. I've started to get questions about loosening restrictions or the State's plans to start lifting some of the mandates in place. The answer is that it's too early to tell. We are moving in the right direction, but Medina County's high incidence rate is still four times above the CDC's threshold.

We are months away from community-wide protection through vaccination. The protective actions you are taking now in our schools, businesses, and in social groups will continue to help us on our journey towards the end of this pandemic and a return to normal activities. Let's keep up the great work! If you are sick or know you have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, please be diligent in staying away from others and seek testing. 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.