



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 1, 2021

### **MCDH expects state and federal partnerships to increase vaccine access**

**WOODSTOCK** — The McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) anticipates that COVID-19 vaccine availability will begin to increase as more vaccine comes into the county and state and federal supplies are distributed through local partnerships.

McHenry County is in the process of transitioning its vaccination efforts to administering first doses for Phase 1b recipients, including educators and school personnel, who will begin to be inoculated by the end of next week – ahead of schedule.

“With federal and state vaccine supplies going to retail pharmacies, in addition to a growing number of community partners, residents and those who work in McHenry County within the priority groups will have many more options of where they can receive the vaccine,” Public Health Administrator Melissa Adamson said.

First responders and those 65 and older are the first two groups prioritized in Phase 1b in McHenry County. More than 25,000 of the approximately 90,000 people who have enrolled through the MCDH website to receive the vaccine have identified themselves as being at least 65 years old.

The county has been working with local school districts to set up two points of dispensing, one at Huntley High School and the other at Woodstock North High School, in order to vaccinate educators and school support personnel across the county. A total of 6,560 doses have been allocated for these appointment-only clinics scheduled for Feb. 11 and Feb. 12.

As of Jan. 29, the MCDH has received 20,275 doses of vaccine – the county received its first allotment of the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 28, while other counties received their initial shipments earlier in the month. Of those, 6,000 doses are allotted specifically for second doses. The MDCH began administering second doses to Phase 1a recipients – frontline healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities – beginning the last week of January, when it also began transitioning to expand its vaccine efforts to first doses for Phase 1b.

Since January, MCDH has distributed 9,400 doses to local hospital systems, local pharmacies and community partners, expanding options for vaccine administration for Phase 1a and 1b priority populations.

As of Feb. 1, the Illinois Department of Public Health is reporting 16,239 McHenry County residents have received vaccine, and 1.32% of the population (4,067) has been fully vaccinated.

More information about enrolling for a COVID-19 vaccine is available at <https://bit.ly/MCDHCovidVaccine>.

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