

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCDH to rollout new vaccine scheduling process to all Phase 1b

WOODSTOCK — The McHenry County Department of Health is announcing a new process for scheduling appointments to get COVID-19 vaccine.

In response to the state's recent announcement expanding Phase 1b eligibility, MCDH is opening appointments to all Phase 1b and Phase 1b Part 2. However, eligibility does not necessarily mean immediate access to a vaccination appointment. It will take time to vaccinate the remaining eligible population in the county and appointments will be available based on vaccine allotments received.

To assist residents in scheduling their vaccine appointment, MCDH is now using the State of Illinois' COVID-19 Vaccine Registration page at https://covidvaccination.dph.illinois.gov/. Residents are encouraged to visit the site frequently as new appointments will be posted regularly and are expected to fill up quickly.

Those eligible to receive their vaccine at an MCDH clinic will no longer need to enroll, but anyone who received their first vaccine through MCDH will receive an email directing them how to schedule their second appointment when it is due. Those who receive their first vaccine on or after March 22 will be provided instructions on how to make their second dose appointment at the time they receive their first dose.

Those with no or limited access to the internet and those who need translation services may schedule an appointment through the MCDH Call Center at (815) 334-4045 or by calling the Illinois Department of Public Health hotline at (833) 621-1284.

Until April 12 when vaccine eligibility opens to all residents age 16 and over, MCDH will be working as quickly as possible to accommodate those in the expanded Phase 1b group.

COVID-19 vaccinations at MCDH-run clinics will continue to be by appointment only and limited to McHenry County residents and those who are employed at a business in the county.

A photo ID and proof of residency or employment within McHenry County must presented at a first-dose appointment. For those receiving the second dose, a photo ID and the vaccination card/record must be presented. If this information is not provided at the time of the appointment, MCDH reserves the right to deny you the vaccine.

"As vaccine eligibility opens to residents age 16 and over, posting vaccination appointments on the state's centralized scheduling hub will help all residents find and register for an appointment," said MCDH Public Health Administrator Melissa Adamson. "If you do not see any appointments at our clinics, it means that all open appointments have been taken. Vaccinating a county takes time, so while eligibility is expanding, the demand for the vaccine is expected to be greater than what's available."

State and Federal partnerships with retail pharmacies are another option for receiving vaccine. Locations of participating pharmacies can be found at coronavirus.illinois.gov. Please check each location's eligibility and scheduling requirements. For more information about where to receive a vaccine, please visit MCDH's <u>Vaccine Locations page</u>.

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