

Media Update



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Date: Friday, January 22, 2021

To: All Media

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For Immediate Release

Tri-county COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments

Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford Counties

As COVID-19 vaccines become more available in the Tri-county area, local healthcare systems, pharmacies, and health departments are coordinating efforts to meet the needs of the community. Following State of Illinois guidelines to provide vaccine to priority groups, our community plans are as follows:

- OSF HealthCare and UnityPoint Health are contacting their patients, affiliated providers, and independent provider offices to schedule vaccinations for those age 65 and older in our community. Both systems are taking patient risk factors into consideration when scheduling. These systems also continue to vaccinate their Phase 1A staff members. At this time, those age 65+ are asked to refrain from calling; the providers will reach out to you when appointments are available.
- Heartland Health Services, our local federally qualified health provider, is contacting their patients age 65+ to schedule vaccinations. As more vaccine allotment becomes available, Heartland Health Services will also look to vaccinate individuals age 65+ who are not affiliated with a primary care physician. Again, Heartland Health will be reaching out directly to their patients and asks that clients do not call at this time.
- Peoria City/County Health Department is scheduling appointments in conjunction with employer groups for frontline, essential workers. The complete list of Phase 1B is at the IDPH website <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-distribution>. To request an appointment, email vaccinerequest@peoriacounty.org.
- Tazewell County Health Department will begin scheduling appointments for their frontline workers. Monitor TCHD website www.tazewellhealth.org or TCHD Facebook page for updates. Plans to offer online scheduling will be announced next week.
- Woodford County Health Department is scheduling appointments for their frontline workers by calling 309-467-3064. Make sure to leave a detailed message and when vaccine is available, you will be called. Monitor WCHD website www.woodfordhealth.org or WCHD Facebook page for updates. Logistics will be changing in the coming weeks to offer an online scheduling tool.

- Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that beginning next week many pharmacies throughout Illinois will be receiving limited vaccine to build capacity to vaccinate those age 65+ and other priority groups in Phase 1b. The State of Illinois will be providing a website page to list locations of all pharmacies and their website/contact information. Please do not show up at pharmacies for vaccinations or appointments. Check the websites for vaccination information. Vaccinations will be by appointment only – no walk-ins.

Vaccines are delivered in 2 doses, with 21-28 days apart. The 2nd dose of vaccine will need to be from the same manufacturer as the 1st dose. The agency providing the 1st dose will be providing individuals with an appointment for the 2nd dose.

As vaccine becomes more readily available, the priority groups will be expanded over the next several months to eventually include all of our residents. Our healthcare community requests individuals to be patient as we roll out our vaccination plans and schedules. Please wait for your healthcare agency to contact you. If you use a health department, please contact them only once, so the phone and email systems can handle the number the contacts.

Changes to any plans will be provided to local media, listed on our websites, and posted to social media. Please stay informed as we continue to adjust our plans according to state guidelines and vaccine availability.

Thank you from all our community partners as we move forward to protect our communities during this COVID-19 pandemic.

For local information on the Tri-county community response to COVID-19, visit your healthcare provider website or local health department website:

Peoria City/County Health Department www.pcchd.org

Tazewell County Health Department www.tazewellhealth.org

Woodford County Health Department www.woodfordhealth.org

Heartland Health Services www.hhsil.com

OSF HealthCare www.osfhealthcare.org

UnityPoint Health www.unitypoint.org/peoria

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