

DATE: February 2, 2021
TO: DeKalb County News Media
FROM: DeKalb County Health Department
Northwestern Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DeKalb County COVID-19 Vaccination Process

On January 25, the State of Illinois announced the transition into Phase 1b of the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. Phase 1b includes many sectors of Frontline Essential Workers and those individuals 65 years and older. We anticipate that with the current limited vaccine supply that it will likely take months to vaccinate all those in Phase 1b who choose to be vaccinated. Please keep in mind that the transition into Phase 1b will look different across the State as vaccination plans and populations vary across jurisdictions.

In DeKalb County, we are continuing to vaccinate those in Phase 1a and are beginning to transition into Phase 1b priority groups. Last week, DeKalb County began vaccinating those 75 and older with very limited appointments. Beginning this week, DeKalb County Health Department (DCHD) and Northwestern Medicine (NM) will be contacting eligible patients to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. NM and DCHD both have a process of notification for vaccine appointment availability.

Agencies and individuals can register online for [DCHD's vaccine notification](#) system. As DCHD vaccine clinics are scheduled, those who have registered, will only receive an email when they are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine with a registration link for specific clinic dates. Based on the available vaccine doses for the week, DCHD staff then use the notification system to determine the number of emails with the allotted doses for the week, based on age and registration date. ONLY those specific people receive the email directly from the DCHD. The DCHD Vaccine Notification System is not set up to send out regular updates and or timelines for vaccine availability. To remain up to date on our vaccine efforts, the public can register on our website to receive our [weekly newsletter](#) updates.

Currently, NM is identifying and contacting patients from high hardship zip codes who are over the age of 78 to invite them to schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Established Northwestern Medicine patients who have a MyNM account will receive an email inviting them to schedule. Established patients who do not have a MyNM account will be contacted the same way they receive their appointment reminders — by phone, text message or email. As vaccine supply becomes more readily available, vaccination will be extended to more patients based on criteria that prioritizes the most vulnerable.

The Health Department and NM do not currently accept walk-in appointments for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Registration is required for Health Department appointments. NM will contact patients when they are eligible. Even though a person may be eligible to receive the vaccine, please be patient as the current demand is higher than the vaccine availability in the County. Vaccine supply is still limited. It will take time to vaccinate those eligible in each phase and most will not be vaccinated right away. For perspective, DeKalb County has only received 1,200 total vaccines this week. As we receive more doses in DeKalb County, additional opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will expand and become more accessible in the coming months. The goal is to vaccinate all people who choose to receive the vaccine, but it will take time.

It is anticipated that over the coming months a person will likely be able to access vaccine through their health care provider, retail pharmacies, and other locations. As the vaccine supply increases, more information will be available from all of these providers about vaccine scheduling.

While waiting for your turn to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we ask that if you work for an organization that is based in DeKalb County and/or you are a resident of DeKalb County please register on the DCHD website to be notified when you or your agency are eligible to receive the vaccine: [DeKalb County Health Department : DeKalb, Illinois](#)

Local COVID-19 vaccine data can be viewed on the IDPH website*:
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccinedata?county=DeKalb>

**Please note, the data represented on the IDPH website represents vaccination by County of residence and not vaccine administered within the County.*

For more information on vaccines and vaccine availability, please visit
<https://health.dekalbcounty.org/about/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/>

At this time, the phonenumber is overwhelmed with calls and the most responsive access to receiving communications is to email COVID19@dekalbcounty.org

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