IOWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Iowa County Health Department
Director/Health Officer
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Patience Needed with COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out

Iowa County – The Iowa County Health Department, Iowa County Emergency Management and Public Safety agencies continue efforts to administer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals who meet the criteria for Phase 1A. Currently, frontline health care workers, residents in long-term care facilities (nursing homes and assisted living facilities), law enforcement, EMS, corrections officers and fire personnel are still being vaccinated in Iowa County.

We understand people are eager to get immunized and have questions about when they will be able to do so. **Patience is the primary need at this time, as the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) released that adults over the age of 65 will be eligible to receive starting January 25.** The Health Department and Emergency Management as well as area hospitals, healthcare providers and pharmacies are preparing for the next phases of COVID-19 vaccinations.

Locally, the Iowa County Health Department and Upland Hills Health plan to begin vaccinations for 65+ after 1/25/2021. This is subject to vaccine availability.

Vaccine quantities are limited. Expect your appointment to be scheduled at a future date as we work to vaccinate our populations as quickly as we have vaccine to do so. Once again, we ask for your patience and understanding in this process. Our goal is to ensure everyone in Iowa County is vaccinated as soon as possible.

If you are 65 or older and wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, see helpful information and links below:

> **If you have a local healthcare provider, you can visit your provider's website for more instructions.**
> Below are websites to a few of the most common providers in the area:
> - [Upland Hills Health](https://uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/) Add your name and contact information to the Upland Hills Health waiting list at https://uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/
> - Group Health Cooperative
> - SSM Health
> - UnityPoint Health
> - University Health Services
> - UW Health
>
> **If you do not have a healthcare provider**, the Iowa County Health Department will be able to vaccinate you or match you with a vaccinator. Contact the Iowa County Health Department at healthinfo@iowacounty.org or call 608-930-9870.

Please keep up to date with the vaccine roll-out through press releases, the Iowa County COVID-19 website and/or the ICHD Facebook page and the Upland Hills Health website and Facebook page.

In addition, we would encourage the public to sign up for the Iowa County WI Alert system to receive Vaccination Information when it becomes available. As the State Department of Health makes the vaccine available to different groups of people, we will send out notifications that will explain how to get vaccinated.
Please sign up for Iowa County Emergency Alerts at: https://www.smart911.com/smart911/login.action
While signing up you will have additional choices for Non-Emergency Alerts, Weather Alerts etc...

Stay informed. Sign Up for DHS Newsletter.
The Department of Health Services (DHS) recently announced a newsletter the public can sign up for to get direct information about the COVID-19 response and vaccine rollout. Every Friday, a COVID-19 update newsletter will be sent via email to people who sign up to receive it. Registration is now open, and archived copies of the weekly newsletter will also be available. Other recommended sites include: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm or www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html. Healthcare providers appreciate everyone making ongoing efforts at masking, handwashing and physical distancing. If everyone works together, it will make a huge difference in getting life back to normal sooner.

The public is encouraged to frequently visit and follow the below sites:
> Wisconsin Department of Health Services https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm
> Iowa County website. https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/COVID-19
> Upland Hills Health https://www.uplandhillshealth.org/patient-visitors/covid-19/
>
> Iowa County Public Health on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/iowacountyhealthdepartment/
> Upland Hills Health on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/UplandHillsHealthHospital/
> Iowa County Emergency Management on Twitter - https://twitter.com/ICEMWI
> Iowa County Emergency Management on Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/icemwi/

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