



## Iowa County Health Department

303 W. Chapel St.

Suite 2200

Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone: (608) 930-9870

Fax: (608) 937-0501

<https://www.iowacounty.org/departments/HealthDepartment>

**March 9, 2021**

*For Immediate Release*

**Iowa County Health Department**

*Director/Health Officer*

*Debbie Siegenthaler RN, MSN*

### **Generous Donation from Vortex and Show of Community Support**

**Iowa County** – The pandemic response in Iowa County has been full of challenge and hardship. However, it has also demonstrated residents showing tremendous diligence and fortitude. Residents, businesses and organizations have additionally shown incredible support, in a multitude of ways.

Community vaccine clinic operations, held now, at the Lands' End Comer Center, are working smoothly. This space is an extraordinary gift from Lands' End. Furthermore, over 100 people have signed up to answer the call to volunteer. Dozens are assisting with multiple aspects of the community vaccine clinic. Other volunteers are assisting with answering phones, scheduling hundreds for their vaccine, and many other tasks.

Today, we want to acknowledge another extraordinary show of support. Vortex, a local corporation in Barneveld, has come forth with an extremely generous donation of \$5000 to fund meals for the volunteers and staff at the community vaccine clinics. "We're incredibly grateful to the Iowa County Health Department and the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly to help keep our communities safe," says Joe Hamilton owner of Vortex and son of founder, Dan Hamilton.

"We are well on our way to getting Iowa County residents vaccinated by the thousands," stated Keith Hurlbert, Director, Iowa County Emergency Management. "With the help we've received from businesses such as Vortex and Lands' End, Iowa County continues to be an area leader in our efforts to mitigate COVID-19 and distribute the vaccine", Hurlbert added.

The COVID-19 pandemic response is nearing its 12 month mark in duration. "It has been the challenge of a lifetime and it is sincerely incredible that we are able to provide hope and optimism, in the form of vaccine," stated Debbie Siegenthaler, Director/Health Officer, Iowa County Health Department. "This incredible donation from Vortex is not only critical to operations, but is beyond heartwarming," added Siegenthaler. The volunteers who are assisting are in addition to dozens of paid staff from across many county departments helping the Health Department with this herculean task.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Administration**

Iowa County Health Department COVID-19 vaccine clinics continue, by appointment only, at Lands' End Comer Center, in Dodgeville.

To date, vaccine administration is ongoing with those in Phase 1 and persons 65 years and older. In addition, the first week in March, we began vaccinating those who work in school settings.

COVID-19 vaccine distribution will continue in this phased approach. It is important to remember that vaccine supply is limited and vaccinations are targeted to specific groups of people with a higher risk for COVID-19 infection. It may be necessary to prioritize people within each phase depending on vaccine supply. For this reason, the timing of vaccine eligibility is dependent on many factors, including state-set policies that local health departments and providers are asked to adhere to closely. It will take time to reach all people within each priority population and phase.

The following provides an overview of who is currently eligible to receive a vaccination. This list will be updated as things change in our community. Visit the [Department of Health Services website](#) for specific definitions and criteria for eligibility.

The State of Wisconsin allows vaccinators in Wisconsin to vaccinate the following populations:

- Frontline healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents
- Fire and police personnel
- EMS staff
- People who are 65 years old or older
- Educators and child care providers
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs
- **Some** public-facing essential workers like food supply, public transit, utility and communications infrastructure, and 911 operators
- Non-frontline health care essential personnel
- Congregate living facility staff and residents

If you live or work in Iowa County and are currently eligible for a vaccine, you can fill out an online vaccine interest form [on the Iowa County Covid 19 website](#), or contact the Iowa County Health Department at [healthinfo@iowacounty.org](mailto:healthinfo@iowacounty.org).

As March 8, 2021, 24.2% (5,740) of Iowa County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 15.5% (3,670) residents have completed the vaccine series. In addition, 78% of those age 65+ have received at least one dose of vaccine. You can view the interactive DHS data dashboard on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Data](#) page.

*-end-*