



Public Health
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Pocahontas County Health Department
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COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE FOR POCAHONTAS COUNTY
1/26/2021

Frontline healthcare workers and long-term care residents and staff were vaccinated in Phase 1A beginning December 28th. A major challenge for scheduling the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is that it was manufactured in a quantity of a 10 multi-dose vial that once it's punctured the vaccine is only good for six hours. We were able to give the hospital the 71 doses that they needed for their employees and 12 doses were needed for the employees at the Unity Point clinics in Pocahontas and Laurens. We have continued to schedule and vaccinate at our office in groups of 10 for other healthcare workers, local EMS, fire, police and sheriff's department. That total is 131 so far. My goal is to not waste even one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Pocahontas County Health Department is very busy not only continuing to provide home care for Pocahontas County residents along with managing the COVID-19 pandemic response. Part of this response currently for is planning for more COVID-19 vaccines and moving into next phases as IDPH allows. We are working on planning for upcoming vaccinations for Phase 1B beginning February 1st. We will continue to follow the guidance as required by Iowa Department of Public Health, the ACIP and the CDC for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to residents in Pocahontas County.

If you are 65 or older, please call our office at 712-335-4142 to put your name on the list so we can call you to schedule an appointment when the vaccine arrives.

For the remaining priority populations in Phase 1B that IDPH has identified. We are working with local schools, licensed daycares, essential businesses, etc. directly to arrange to vaccinate those groups.

Please remember that our state is in a current vaccine shortage and we do not know WHEN the next doses will arrive and HOW MANY will arrive.

When the vaccine is allotted to PCHD, we will continue to provide accurate and updated information via local media, like newspapers and radio, our Pocahontas County website, or you can follow "Public Health of Pocahontas, Iowa" on Facebook as fast as we can.

Once we are aware of the amount of vaccines assigned to our county, we will schedule appointments and where clinics will be held.

Again, we do not have the vaccine yet to be able to move into Phase 1B. Please be patient with us and understand that we are working as fast as we can and it's going to take time because the vaccine itself is in very short supply.

This vaccine is a historic scientific milestone, but we still need to keep ourselves, our families and our neighbors safe and healthy. Remember to wash your hands often, wear a face mask, cover your coughs and sneezes, keep six feet apart from others and stay home when sick.

Thank you for continuing to do your part to stop the COVID-19 spread!

Anne Thompson, Administrator