



2390 W Station St, Kankakee, Illinois 60901  
Phone: (815) 802-9400 | Fax: (815) 802-9391  
[www.kankakeehealth.org](http://www.kankakeehealth.org)

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Contact: Lindsay Wilson 815-802-9442

For Immediate Release

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

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## **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in Kankakee County**

With the recent Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine there have been a lot of questions circulating around how this vaccine will be administered to the community members of Kankakee County. Limited amounts of the COVID-19 vaccine will begin to be allocated to Kankakee County in the coming weeks. The Kankakee County Health Department staff and partners have been working tirelessly to develop a plan for administration of the vaccine to our community members following the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines. Given the initial limited supply of vaccine, there will be a phased approach to administration (listed below). More information about the development of this phased approach can be found by clicking the *How CDC is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations* link at the end of this PSA.

**AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NOT A WAITING LIST TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE AND YOU CANNOT SCHEDULE TO GET THE VACCINE BY CALLING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

When the health department receives a steady supply of vaccine and is able to hold drive through and by appointment clinics, we will notify the public via multiple media outlets. Please refrain from calling the health department to ask for updates on the COVID-19 vaccine, updates will be provided via Facebook (@KankakeeHealth) and other media outlets as they are made available.

**Phased approach to vaccine allocation:**

| <b>Limited Supply</b>  |   |  | <b>Increased Supply</b>   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Phase 1 A</b>   | <b>Phase 1 B</b>  | <b>Phase 1 C</b>   | <b>Phase 2</b>  | <b>Phase 3</b>  |
| <b>Health Care Workers &amp; Long-Term Care Facilities</b>   | <b>Essential Workers</b>  | <b>Adults with high-risk medical conditions</b><br><br><b>Adults 65+</b>   | <b>All other adults 31+ not included in Phase 1. People in other congregate setting not previously mentioned</b>  | <b>Young adults, children (if a pediatric vaccine is available) and workers in industries and occupations important to the functioning of society and at increased risk of exposure, not included in phases 1 or 2</b>                                    |
| <p><b>Health Care Workers:</b> Health care personnel are defined as paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials. (E.g. Clinicians such as physicians, respiratory technicians, dentists &amp; hygienists.)</p> <p>Other healthcare workers such as EMS, nursing assistants, environmental services, assisted living facility staff, long term care staff, group home care staff &amp; home care givers.</p> <p><b>Long Term Care Facility Residents:</b> Defined as adults who reside in facilities that provide a variety of services, including medical and personal care to persons who are unable to live independently</p> | <p><b>Phase 1B is pending ACIP recommendations, but is expected to be similar to the following:</b></p> <p><b>Essential Frontline workers:</b> Includes those workers who are essential for the functioning of society such as police, fire, education, food &amp; agriculture, utilities, corrections, transportation etc.</p> | <p><b>Phase 1C is pending ACIP recommendations, but is expected to be similar to the following:</b></p> <p><b>Adults with high-risk medical conditions:</b> Those adults with high-risk medical conditions such as obesity, diabetes, COPD, Heart Conditions, chronic Kidney conditions, cancer, solid organ transplant, sickle cell disease, etc.</p> <p><b>Adults: 65+</b></p> | <p><b>Phase 2 is pending ACIP recommendations, but is expected to be similar to the following:</b></p> <p><b>Workers in industries and occupations important to the functioning of society:</b> People at increased risk of exposure include those who work in: restaurants, hotels, entertainment industry, banks, libraries, salons, barber shops, exercise facilities, factories, or other goods-producing facilities.</p> <p><b>People with moderate comorbid conditions.</b></p> | <p><b>Phase 3 is pending ACIP recommendations, but is expected to be similar to the following;</b></p> <p>Young adults; aged 18-30</p> <p>Children: Under the age of 18 being included in Phase 3 is dependent upon a pediatric vaccine availability.</p> |

For more information regarding the Pfizer- BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine you can visit the links below.

- Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine: <https://www.cvdvaccine.com/>
- How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html>
- Illinois Department of Public Health SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Guide and Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccination-plan>