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Subject: Covid-19 Vaccinations

Covid-19 Vaccinations in Kankakee County

First and foremost, the Kankakee County Health Department can assure you, we will diligently schedule vaccination clinics as rapidly as vaccine supply is received, following the mandated phased approach established by CDC, IDPH, ACIP, and the governor of Illinois. In addition, we fully support the science and safety behind Covid-19 vaccines.

Q: When can I get a shot?

A: Eligible groups in 1A or 1B are contacted through their employer (healthcare, teacher, and industry) or individually (65+). We will continue to contact groups listed in 1A and 1B as vaccine becomes available. 1B is estimated to be over 40,000 individuals in Kankakee County. Vaccine distribution will take some time.

Phase 1A: Healthcare workers & LTC residents

Phase 1b:

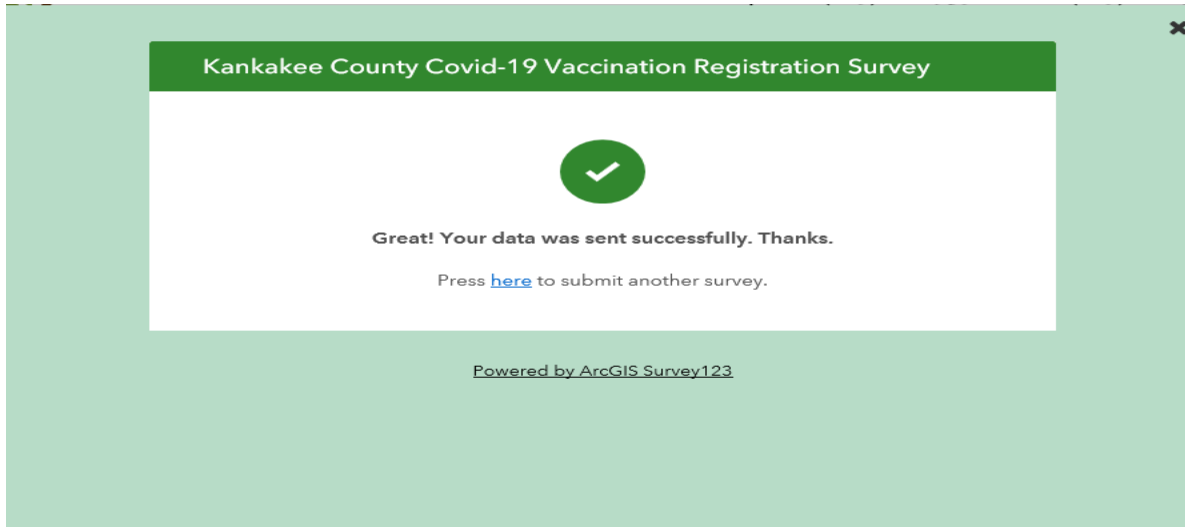
- Persons aged 65 years and older
- **Frontline essential workers**, defined as those workers who are essential for the functioning of society and are at highest risk of exposure, including the following:
 - **First responders:** Firefighters (including volunteers), Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs), 911 Dispatch (Public Safety Answering Point – PSAP), Security Personnel, School Officers. (EMS personnel are considered under Phase 1a).
 - **Corrections Officers/Inmates:** Jail Officers, Juvenile Facility Staff, Workers Providing In-Person Support, Inmates.
 - **Food and Agriculture Workers:** Processing, Plants, Veterinary Health, Livestock Services, Animal Care.
 - **Postal Service Workers**
 - **Manufacturing Workers:** Industrial production of goods for distribution to retail, wholesale or other manufacturers.
 - **Grocery Store Workers:** Baggers, Cashiers, Stockers, Pick-Up, Customer Service.
 - **Public Transit Workers:** Flight Crew, Bus Drivers, Train Conductors, Taxi Drivers, Para-Transit Drivers, In-Person Support, Ride Sharing Services.
 - **Education (Congregate Child Care, Pre-K through 12th grade):** Teachers, Principals, Student Support, Student Aids, Day Care Workers.
 - **Shelters/Adult Day Care:** Homeless Shelter, Women's Shelter, Adult Day/Drop-In Program, Sheltered Workshop, Psycho-Social Rehab.

Other groups, workers, or individuals must wait until the phase becomes eligible. We expect to be in this current phase for many weeks to months. Please be patient.

Q: How do we register?

A: Please go to our website www.kankakeehealth.org or our Facebook page and click on the link <https://bit.ly/3hTUFYJ> to register using the survey. Click on the triangle in each green circle to “drop down” the questions for each section. This will help determine which phase you qualify for. If you are unable to register online, please call 815-802-9449 and provide your information. Please leave your name, age, and phone number. This information will put you on our list. You will not receive a phone call back to confirm that you are registered.

If you registered via our link on our website or our Facebook page, you should have received a confirmation at the end once you clicked Submit that looks like this:



Q. I registered on your link, but it's been weeks and I haven't been called yet. Can you tell me what number I am on the list?

A. We must follow the guidelines that IDPH put in place as far as when we can start vaccinating each group. We were not able to start vaccinating seniors over 65 until January 25, 2021, but we already had several thousand people that had registered prior to that date. We will call or email you at the phone number or email you gave as soon as we get to you on the list.

Q: Who will contact me?

A: Kankakee County Health Department has partnered with Riverside Hospital and Meijer to assist in vaccinating the community as quickly as possible. You will be contacted by Riverside Hospital, Meijer, or the Health Department regarding scheduling your vaccination. Please make sure that you answer the phone if you see an unfamiliar phone number.

Q: How much vaccine do we have in Kankakee County?

A: Kankakee County Health Department must order supplies weekly through IDPH and supplies are extremely limited. Once received, KCHD then distributes the vaccine via KCHD clinics, to the local hospitals, and to assisting pharmacies. As supplies increase, and extra providers become available, more appointments can be made. We are receiving an average of 1000 doses a week.

Q: What is the Health Department doing now?

A: Currently the KCHD, local hospitals, and assisting pharmacies are vaccinating groups in Phase 1A and 1B by appointment and as supply allows. KCHD has completed eleven school district clinics. Plans are in place to vaccinate larger groups when vaccine supply is increased.

Q. My mom is at a nursing home and hasn't received her vaccination yet; why is the Health Department vaccinating young workers and not the elderly population who are more susceptible to this disease?

A. The Federal Government created a partnership with Walgreens and CVS pharmacies to directly ship vaccine to these pharmacies; in order for them to vaccinate residents of nursing homes and the long-term care facilities. The Kankakee County Health Department is not allotted vaccine to provide vaccines to these locations. Vaccine for these locations is coming from the Federal "pool" of vaccines.

You have the Kankakee County Health Department's promise that we will continue to vaccinate our community until everyone who wants the COVID vaccine is vaccinated. We urge you to be patient and please understand that we are focused on making sure that all our residents are taken care of and we will not stop until everyone is served.