



LIVINGSTON COUNTY Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Livingston County Update on COVID-19 Vaccine and Distribution

HOWELL, Michigan. - (December 23, 2020) Today serves as a historic day for the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) as they received the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and began vaccinating priority groups. Initial supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine are limited. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) identified a phased approach for vaccine distribution (<https://bit.ly/3rjXvKU>). First priorities (1A) include long-term care facilities, EMS, fire medical responders, and frontline health care providers not already being vaccinated through their hospital or organization. Staff and residents at skilled nursing facilities will be vaccinated through national pharmacies in coordination with the federal government.

The phased vaccination approach allows for continued functioning of the health care system and essential services in the community, while protecting people at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness. These prioritizations may change as more information on vaccine effectiveness and additional vaccination products become available.

Phases are as follows:

- **Phase 1A** includes paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents of long-term care facilities.
- **Phase 1B** includes **some workers in essential and critical industries**, including workers with unique skill sets such as non-hospital or non-public health laboratories and mortuary services.
- **Phase 1C** includes people at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions, and people 65 years and older.

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- **Phase 2** is a mass vaccination campaign for all adults.

LCHD expects vaccine administration to roll out over a series of months. Eventually, as vaccine becomes more widely available, a variety of partners will be engaged in the distribution and administration process including St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, local pharmacies, and outpatient clinics.

There is no out-of-pocket costs to individuals for the vaccine, however, healthcare providers may bill insurance for administrative costs. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine requires two doses, separated by 28 days. Individuals should receive both doses in order to be considered fully vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccine is critical in slowing the spread and helping communities recover from the pandemic. Stopping the pandemic will take ALL our tools: handwashing, masks, social distancing, and vaccines. Together, these tools offer the best chance of getting our communities, schools, and work sites back to normal. LCHD reminds residents to continue using prevention strategies as vaccines become more widely available and for some time after.

For more information and regular updates regarding the vaccine, visit LCHD's COVID-19 vaccine page: <https://www.livgov.com/health/ph/Pages/COVID19-Vaccine.aspx>.





Pictured: Emma Harman, Epidemiologist with the LCHD; Angelia Ragan, Paramedic with the Livingston County EMS, receiving the vaccine from Kristen Flory, Public Health Nurse; and Elaine Brown, Director of Personal and Preventive Health Services/Deputy Health Officer, receiving the vaccine from Paula Blankenship, Public Health Nurse.

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