Clayton County COVID-19 Vaccinations of Health Care Workers
Expected to Start the Week of December 21

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made initial allocations of COVID-19 vaccine available to local public health agencies across the state. The Clayton County Visiting Nurse Association has placed the county’s initial order for 600 doses of COVID-19 vaccine for those in priority groups identified in Phase 1-A.

These doses will be targeted to the following groups:

- Health care staff with direct patient contact who are unable to telework, who provide services to patients or patients’ family members, or who handle infectious materials. This includes those who work in inpatient care, outpatient care, or community settings.

The FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet and review the request for emergency use authorization (EUA) for Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday, December 17. If the FDA committee, which is comprised of independent scientific and public health experts, recommends approval of the Moderna vaccine, the request will move forward for full EUA approval within 24 hours.

Upon full EUA approval, Clayton County is scheduled to receive 600 doses of the Moderna vaccine for healthcare workers at MercyOne Elkader Medical Center, Guttenberg Municipal Hospital, Cornerstone Family Practice, and Medical Associates-Elkader and Monona. Due to the ultra-cold storage requirements of the Pfizer vaccine and the inability for county providers to store at the required temperature, the county will not be receiving allocated doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

“We are excited to be moving into this phase of vaccine distribution, however we caution and encourage residents to remain diligent in practicing public health recommendations, this is just the beginning and we have a long way to go before the vaccine will be available to the general public,” says, Stacey Killian, Director of Visiting Nurse Association. “To protect our local healthcare system and our most vulnerable residents we need to do our part to continue slowing the spread by wearing a mask, social distancing, hand washing, and staying home when ill” states Killian.

Staff and residents of long-term care facilities are also included in phase 1-A and will receive their vaccines doses through pharmacy partnerships set up by the federal government. The partnership created by the federal government will allow facilities to partner with a pharmacy chain, such as CVS or Walgreens, to have COVID-19 vaccine brought in and administered at their facility for both residents and staff. It is anticipated that these vaccinations would begin the week of December 28.

Vaccinations for the general public are not expected to be available until spring 2021. We ask for the public’s patience as we move through priority groups as identified by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Information on vaccine availability for the general public will be shared as it becomes available.

For additional information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the CDC website: