

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Location for Walk-In Clinics**

**(SAGINAW)** – The Saginaw County Health Department is announcing a new location for walk-in clinics inside the former Sears Department Store in the Fashion Square Mall. Beginning May 11 thru June 30, the health department vaccination team will be there every Tuesday 9am-4pm, and every Wednesday 3:30-6:30pm.

“Drive-thru clinics were an essential part of our vaccination strategy during the winter months to protect our most vulnerable and elderly residents,” says Chris Harrington, MPH, health officer. “Holding clinics in nearly every corner of the county -- including our most socially vulnerable neighborhoods -- was another important decision to maximize accessibility and equity.”

But every good strategy has pivot points, she adds. The health department has temporarily leased the old Sears Department Store for May and June (and beyond if needed) to provide residents with a convenient, centralized vaccination location near the restaurant and retail corridor in Saginaw County.

The shift to a safe, spacious temporary indoor site is based on:

- Vaccine demand peaking the week of April 11, now slowly declining and reducing the necessity for the health department to hold daily clinics at a different location each day since mid December 2020.
- Weather warming up and younger, more mobile residents seeking vaccination.
- Demand for COVID-safe, walk-in flexibility and evening hours.

This week, the health department will be releasing a Saginaw COVID-19 “vaccination clinic calendar” containing every Saginaw County provider's vaccine locations and times for the month of May. For a few weeks, residents will see the health department's second-dose clinics at many of the locations they've used for first-dose clinics. The new locations and times indoors at Sears will be additions. Moving forward, the two-day stints at Sears may be where the majority of vaccination is done. However, the health department is committed to continued outreach into neighborhoods where communications, technology, trust, and access remain obstacles. There, churches will likely serve as neighborhood focal points for vaccination.

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