

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEWS ALERT : IMPORTANT VACCINE REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**(SAGINAW)** – The Saginaw County Health Department is encouraging county residents who are among those now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to follow these new instructions:

**For those 65+** in Saginaw County who registered with the health department but have NOT been contacted and who have NOT been scheduled by the health department, a hospital or pharmacy – **please call 771-1010 to make an appointment.**

**For those who are 50+** with a disability or underlying health condition or who are the caregiver/guardian of a child with special health care needs – **please visit [mysaginawhealth.org](https://mysaginawhealth.org) to register.**

The two separate registration processes have come about for good reason. The county’s progress through the 65+ population has accelerated significantly, says Chris Harrington, MPH health officer. Calling names from the health department’s registration list is producing far more “I’ve already been scheduled” and “I’m already vaccinated” than “I still need an appointment,” she notes. “We are trying to minimize calls to people who no longer need to hear from us and maximize our staff and volunteer time.”

To that end, the health department has set up a phone bank at the 771-1010 number to take in calls and schedule appointments for adults 65+.

Moving forward with the adults 50+ population, the new registration process at [mysaginawhealth.org](https://mysaginawhealth.org) will enable the health department to open up appointment times, send emails or make phone calls to those registered, and have people self-schedule their vaccination appointments all in one app.

Harrington explains that “eligibility” and “availability” are two different things. “Adults 50+ with underlying health conditions and caregivers of children with special health care needs are now eligible to receive the vaccine but that does not mean they will get one immediately,” she says. “Keep in mind that there are some folks 65+ who registered in mid-January and still haven’t been scheduled. There just aren’t enough doses available to vaccinate everyone who is eligible to receive one all at once. It’s still going to be a process of people waiting and then scheduling appointments as they open up based on dose availability.”

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