



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 1/15/2021

CONTACT: Christina Harrington, MPH
TITLE: Health Officer
PHONE: (989) 758-3813
EMAIL: charrington@saginawcounty.com

SAGINAW COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINATION EFFORTS MOVE TO PHASE 1B

(SAGINAW) -- As part of our partnership to implement the complex task of vaccinating priority groups for COVID-19, we are announcing that Saginaw County is wrapping up Phase 1A after vaccinating more than 7,500 healthcare workers with at least one dose and is ready to move to Phase 1B beginning today as doses allow.

Phase 1B will focus on adults 65 years and older, pre-K thru 12 school and childcare staff, fire/police, corrections workers, and staff at homeless shelters and child & protective services – followed by workers in critical infrastructure businesses. This group accounts for well over 20% of Saginaw County’s population, and there currently are not enough doses to vaccinate everyone. *It will likely occur in smaller groups as doses become available, potentially taking several months to complete.*

The health department is asking individuals and businesses in this phase to “reserve a dose” by registering as follows:

For Adults 65+

If you are 65 years of age or older, register your name, age, address, cell phone, and email address with the Saginaw County Health Department at www.saginawpublichealth.org.

- Friends and family may register on behalf of an elderly loved one who is not comfortable with technology – and may use their own email or cell phone number for notifications.
- Those who are unable to register online or don’t have a family member to assist may call the Saginaw County Commission on Aging for help at (989) 797-6880. Staff will take your name, address, cell phone, and email address and enter you into the health department’s system to reserve your dose.

MORE

- If you are a veteran currently enrolled in services at the Saginaw VA, you can get your vaccine there.
- If you have already registered at Meijer, now serving as an additional community partner, there is no need to duplicate your registration on the health department site. You will receive your notifications directly from Meijer.

For Critical Infrastructure Businesses

A similar online registration process is available for critical infrastructure businesses who employ essential workers. That registration link is also available on the health department's website at www.saginawpublichealth.org. Employers, providing one main contact, should register on behalf of their business and employees, rather than having individual employees register.

Once registered, adults 65+ and critical infrastructure businesses will be contacted via phone, email, text or hospital/hospital-affiliated provider with a day, time and location for vaccination. Again, providers in Saginaw County are working together on Phase 1B, so people and organizations may be directed to one of our hospitals, a partner clinic, or a Saginaw County Health Department drive-thru vaccination clinic.

To keep phone lines open for essential patient care, please do not call the health department or the hospitals for appointments unless instructed to do so. Questions about registration or vaccination for Phase 1B should be directed to covidvaccine@saginawcounty.com.

As we continue to provide second doses to Phase 1A workers and begin the process of working through Phase 1B, we ask for our community's patience. The process will take time. We are committed to communicating regularly about our progress. Please continue to avoid high-risk behaviors and protect yourself from COVID-19 by:

- Washing your hands, wearing your masks, watching your distance
- Staying home for at least 10 days when sick with COVID-19 or COVID-like symptoms
- Staying home for 14 days if exposed to COVID-19
- Avoiding crowded gatherings and other high-risk behaviors

###