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EMMONS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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News Release

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Attached Artwork:

None

Emmons County Public Health Stresses Patience as Vaccination Effort Continues

[LINTON, ND] – Emmons County Public Health (ECPH) is stressing patience for individuals concerned vaccination efforts may have already passed them by.

Presently, ECPH is conducting vaccination clinics for individuals in Phase 1A, a priority group consisting of healthcare workers, first responders and long-term care residents and staff. This phase is the smallest of the phases and is expected to include as many as 82,000 people throughout North Dakota.

“The call volume at our health unit has experienced a significant jump this week, and we are speaking with a lot of folks afraid they will somehow miss their shot at a vaccine,” said ECPH Executive Officer Bev Voller. “We are distributing all the vaccine we are receiving and there just isn’t a lot available right now. As we get into Phase 1B and 1C, vaccine is expected to be available for more individuals in our county. We will be sharing more information as we are ready to begin vaccination clinics for those individuals.”

Priority groups in Phase 1B are expected to reach as many as 230,000 statewide:

- Adults 75 and older
- Adults 65-74 with 2+ underlying conditions
- Other congregate setting residents and staff (e.g. corrections)
- Adults 65-74 with 1 underlying condition
- Adults 65 and older without underlying conditions
- People of any age with 2+ underlying conditions

- Childcare workers
- Preschool and K-12 school workers

Phase 1C is expected to reach about 165,000 people in North Dakota:

- National Guard, not previously covered
- Grocery workers
- Public safety answering points (911)
- COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing workers
- Healthcare/public health workers not in Phase 1A
- Public transit – including bus, taxi and ride-share – workers
- People aged 16-64 with 1 underlying condition
- Blood bank workers not previously vaccinated
- IT workers unable to work from home
- All other essential workers per Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) unable to work from home.

The Phase 2 priority group makes vaccine available for the general public.

“We are very encouraged by the efficacy of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine,” said Voller. “After your second dose, both vaccines are expected to serve as a significant protection against COVID-19. However, at this point, we only know the vaccine will help your own body fight against COVID-19. We still do not have enough data to know if the vaccine will prevent you from transmitting the disease.”

Voller said all individuals are encouraged to continue practicing universal precautions to keep yourself and those around you as healthy as possible:

- Practice physical distancing that keeps you at least six feet from other people who are not in your household.
- Wear a face covering if social distancing is not possible.
- Wash your hands with soap often. If soap is not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Monitor your health daily and be alert for COVID-19 symptoms.

For ongoing response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Dakota Department of Health has established a COVID-19 Hotline to help answer your questions. You may call 1-866-207-2880, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, with questions. Please note that individuals seeking specific medical advice should contact their healthcare provider.

Emmons County Public Health has provided a variety of COVID-19 information through its Facebook page. You can connect with them at www.facebook.com/ecph.gov for updates about testing events. For more info about COVID-19, visit the [ND Department of Health website](#), [NDResponse.gov](https://ndresponse.gov), or [CDC website](#).

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