ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Allegan County

(Allegan, MI)— Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) is asking for patience as scheduling for COVID-19 vaccine appointments continue. COVID-19 vaccine supplies and providers remain limited. If you are now eligible for vaccination, it does not mean vaccination is immediately available to you.

At least 26,000 more individuals in Allegan County are now eligible for vaccination. This includes people 65 years of age and older and frontline, essential workers with frequent or ongoing exposure as a part of their work, including first responders, police officers, jail and prison staff, pre-K-12 teachers, and workers in childcare centers and protective services. This does not include all essential workers or other infrastructure workers. Vaccine clinics for those 65 years of age and older started on January 11, 2021. ACHD will notify first responders, police officers, jail and prison staff, pre-K through 12 teachers and workers in childcare centers and protective services by email this week with instructions to schedule their vaccination appointments. Clinics for this group will begin January 25, dependent on vaccine availability. ACHD is currently able to administer at least 600 vaccines each week with current vaccine supply.

ACHD has secured ultra-cold storage for the Pfizer vaccine and received 975 doses of Pfizer this week. Moving forward, ACHD will order both Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to support upcoming clinics. This week (1/11/21 to 1/16/21), ACHD has three vaccination clinics scheduled. Each clinic is vaccinating at least 200 individuals that fall in the Phase 1A and Phase 1B – individuals 65 years and older groups. Between December 30, 2020 and January 9, 2021, 540 health care workers from phase 1A were vaccinated by ACHD. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Vaccine Dashboard, 2,152 vaccines have been administered to Allegan County residents as of January 11, 2021.

Details regarding the times and locations of the mass vaccination clinics remain undisclosed publicly as vaccination is by appointment only. At the vaccination clinic, people must present their identification and proof of employment if it is applicable to their priority group. Appointments are only open to people who live or work in Allegan County.

To get vaccinated through ACHD, individuals working or living in Allegan County must complete the "<u>I Want the COVID-19 Vaccine</u>" form on <u>www.allegancounty.org/covid</u>. Once ACHD has begun the vaccination phase an individual may be eligible for, ACHD will send instructions for making a vaccine appointment via email. Individuals in need of assistance can call the ACHD COVID-19 Hotline at 269-686-4546 to provide their information. ACHD is following <u>prioritization set</u> by the State of Michigan. People with greater vulnerability due to age or exposure have been prioritized.