



News Release

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Muscatine County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Currently, healthcare workers and long-term care facility residents are receiving the vaccine in Phase 1a in Muscatine County and in alignment with the state. Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Infectious Disease Advisory Council of Iowa (IDAC) has identified those at highest risk for Covid-19 based on guidance from the CDC in three phases. Per IDPH and IDAC, each phase must be completed before moving to the next per a COVID-19 vaccine shortage order in our state.

Phase 1a includes:

- Healthcare workers
- Long-term care facility residents

Currently Phase 1b includes:

- Frontline essential workers (fire, law enforcement, corrections, food and agricultural, manufacturing, U.S. Postal Service, grocery stores, public transit and education (teachers, daycare, support staff))
- People 75 years and older because they are at higher risk for hospitalization, illness and death from Covid-19.

Currently Phase 1c includes:

- People 65-75 years old because they are at higher risk for hospitalization, illness and death from Covid-19
- People 16-64 years old with underlying conditions that may result in serious, life-threatening complications from Covid-19
- Other essential workers (transportation and logistics, food service housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, public safety)

The priority groups are subject to change based on further IDPH and IDAC recommendations.

“The Muscatine County Public Health Department will announce to local news media, on our Facebook page, and on the Muscatine County website, <https://www.muscatinecountyiowa.gov/>, when the county will move to Phase 1b and 1c. While right now, the vaccine is being made available to the targeted populations as identified by the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health, it is anticipated that by mid-2021, there should be enough vaccine for anyone who wants to receive it,” said Muscatine County Public Health Director, Christy Roby Williams.

The vaccines will be available free of charge to anyone who is eligible and seeks vaccination through the Muscatine County Public Health department. The currently available vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) require two doses for optimal immunity. There will be no charge for either dose.

For information and updates related to COVID-19, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Vaccine> and follow us on @TrinityMuscatinePublicHealth on Facebook.