

COVID-19 Vaccines Arrive At Hunterdon Medical Center

County's Distribution Plan For First Targeted Groups In Place

Hunterdon Medical Center has received a supply of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine that is directed for use in inoculating medical personnel who are at highest risk of infection, the Medical Center has announced.

Freeholder Board Deputy Director Sue Soloway, the Board's Health Department liaison, stated, "It is welcome news that vaccines are arriving. The County Health Department expects to receive a limited supply of vaccines within the next few weeks. Once vaccine is received by the County, information regarding vaccination appointments will be sent to priority populations as determined by the CDC."

The first doses of vaccine in Phase 1 of vaccine distribution, as directed by the federal government, are being provided to healthcare personnel who may have direct exposure to patients. This group includes physicians, nurses, community health workers, and EMT personnel.

Soloway added, "According to federal directives, patients in long term care facilities will be receiving vaccinations through Walgreens and CVS pharmacies."

Hunterdon County Health Officer Karen DeMarco has reported that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and State Department of Health have established a distribution plan of the initial limited amount of vaccinations.

DeMarco reported, "According to the CDC and State Health Department, Phase 1A are Healthcare workers, Phase 1B are critical infrastructure/essential workers/other non-healthcare first responders, and Phase 1C will be adults 65+ with high-risk medical conditions. The general population will follow as more vaccines are produced.

There will be public notification of the availability of vaccination appointments for each phase of the program, as directed by federal and state authorities."

DeMarco said, "How quickly the County is able to move through each of those phases is dependent on the quantity of vaccine provided – nationally and at the state level, the County Health Department will be advised when permitted to move forward with each next phase.

The Health Department staff have established plans in place for mass medication distribution in Hunterdon County, partnering with the Office of Emergency Management in vaccination efforts."