



**CLINTON OFFICE**  
 1307 E. Townsend Rd.  
 Saint Johns, MI 48879-9036  
 (989) 224-2195

**GRATIOT OFFICE**  
 151 Commerce Dr.  
 Ithaca, MI 48847-1627  
 (989) 875-3681

**MONTCALM OFFICE**  
 615 N. State St.  
 Stanton, MI 48888-9702  
 (989) 831-5237

<b>BOARD OF HEALTH:</b>	Bruce DeLong Dwight Washington, Ph.D.	George Bailey Chuck Murphy	Betty Kellenberger Adam Petersen
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January 25, 2021  
 Marcus Cheatham, Health Officer

**VACCINE ARRIVING SLOWLY IN MICHIGAN**

Like other Michigan counties, Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm will be receiving only a small amount of COVID-19 vaccine this week. The purpose of this update is to describe the arrival of the vaccines and to tell you how the health department and the community are addressing the situation. To do this I will address:

- The target population we need to vaccinate
- How vaccines are arriving in the community
- Projected time to vaccinate the population
- Logistics required to vaccinate the population

**The target population.** We made the following estimate of the size of the target population in groups 1A (Health Care) and group 1B (Over 65 and essential workers). These people need to be vaccinated immediately to reduce mortality and maintain basic functioning of the economy and MDHHS has asked us to address them immediately.

	<b>Total in Target</b>	<b>Assume 70%</b>
Health Care	11,784	8,248
Long Term Care	1,683	1,683
Essential Workers	16,835	11,784
Age >= 75	10,662	7,463
Age 65-74	15,712	10,998
Age 16-64 w/ high risk conds	45,454	31,817
	<b>102,130</b>	<b>71,993</b>

The Health Department estimates that there are 71,993 persons in groups 1A and 1B who will be vaccinated, estimating that 70 percent of the population will accept it. This includes health care workers, everyone over 65, those 16-64 who have pre-existing conditions and certain groups of essential workers.

**How the vaccine is coming.** Local health departments order vaccine according to a schedule established by MDHHS. Early in the week we place orders based on MDHHS guidance about what is likely to be available and we are informed what we will get just before the weekend. MDHHS tries to ensure a stable supply of vaccine, but sudden changes in the federal distribution system mean we may not get what we order. In that case we may need to cancel clinics or change the type of vaccine offered.

<b>Direct Distribution</b>	MMDHD	Health Care	Total
Dec. 28, 2020	1,600	5,500	8,100
Jan. 17, 2021	1,600	8,450	10,050
Jan 24, 2021	1,100	600	1,700
Total by Provider	4,300	14,550	18,850

<b>Indirect Distribution</b>			
LTC Pharmacy Program			3,200
<b>Total</b>			<b>22,050</b>

We estimate a total of 22,050, doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have entered the District that will be used in the next few days. Since these are a two-dose series, we can estimate that 11,525 people will get vaccinated with the supplies on hand. That amounts to 16 percent of the target population.

**Timeline to vaccinate the population.** Using the week of January 17 in the chart above, we can presume that vaccines may come at the rate of about 10,000 doses per week. We are confident we can use all the vaccine that the State can send us. We have been consistently clearing our vaccine inventory within ten days of shipment. At that rate, it might take a little over three months to vaccinate everyone in groups 1A and 1B. (70,000 persons x 2 doses each = 140,000. Divided by 10,000 doses per week = 14 weeks.)

**Logistics to vaccinate the population.** In order to vaccinate the entire target population, the Health Department is participating in a broad community response, bringing all the providers into the fray.

We have not been given a clear indication that the flow of vaccines will increase a lot in the near future. So let's assume we continue to get 10,000 doses per week in the District. The Health Department itself is probably capable of giving 3,000 doses per week from its existing campuses. Thus, in order to give the remaining 7,000, it will be necessary to braid together vaccinations of the following types:

1. *Clinics for people over 65.* At its three campuses the health department has focused on vaccinating people over age 65 and other high-risk individuals. We currently have no openings at these clinics.
2. *Health Department clinics* in alternative locations such as schools, businesses, churches, etc. Doing this at the same time as running our own clinics will exceed our nursing capacity, so we will require nurses from other sources such as volunteers, contractors and/or the National Guard.
3. *Pharmacy vaccinations.* It is already the case that major pharmacies are making arrangements to vaccinate people in their stores. Many people are used to getting vaccinated at pharmacies and will be comfortable with this. We have reached out to pharmacies to make arrangements to provide them with vaccine ourselves.
4. *Health care providers* vaccinating their own patients. All of the hospitals in our area have already started making arrangements to vaccinate their patients and most have already begun doing this themselves. Some are offering vaccinations for the community also.

We have taken concrete steps to ensure that these things happen. We have used volunteer nurses at one of our clinics and have a list of additional names ready to go. We have signed contracts with staffing agencies including Optimal Staffing and Spectrum Health which are also ready to be used as soon as needed. And we have completed our first round of clinics with the National Guard who vaccinated adult foster care homes for us. And we have already offered clinics at schools for essential workers, so we have the capacity to continue to offer community-based clinics as needed. We just need vaccine to do this.