

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 02-16-21

## **COVID-19 vaccine is still in short supply**

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- The COVID-19 vaccines are our best hope for ending the pandemic and we have now vaccinated more Michiganders than we have cases of COVID! Progress is being made, although not as fast as most of us would like.

We know many of our community members are waiting to get their COVID-19 vaccinations and many are frustrated because they are having a difficult time getting an appointment. Local public health departments across the State of Michigan, including Mid-Michigan District Health Department, are moving as quickly as possible to vaccinate those who are eligible. Unfortunately, efforts are being hampered because there simply is not enough vaccine to meet the high demand.

Mid-Michigan District Health Department is administering around 600 first doses every week and holding second dose clinics. We are also working with area hospitals and Meijer Pharmacies to vaccinate as many people as possible. We wish we could vaccinate more people on a weekly basis, and are making plans to hold mass vaccination clinics, but can't follow through with these plans until the amount of vaccine we receive is increased.

When we have COVID-19 appointments available, we will send out a notice to those on our waiting list. If you would like to be placed on our waiting list, please visit our website: [www.mmdhd.org/covid-vaccine-information/](http://www.mmdhd.org/covid-vaccine-information/).

The good news is that more and more vaccination locations are opening up in our area and we recommend people explore all of these options to increase their chances of obtaining an appointment. These locations can be found on our website: [www.mmdhd.org/covid-vaccine-information/](http://www.mmdhd.org/covid-vaccine-information/).

The biggest challenge every organization offering the vaccine faces right now is the limited supply of vaccine. We ask for patience as we work through this monumental task and want our communities to know that everyone who wants to be vaccinated will be vaccinated, but it will take time.

We know that those without internet or our seniors might have an especially difficult time trying to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. We encourage these individuals to call 211 for assistance. A 211 operator will help callers register or sign up with clinic sites in their area.

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## 2- Vaccine still in short supply

Seniors over 65 who do not have internet or who struggle to use a computer may call their nearest office on aging. Clinton County seniors over 65 can call the Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1440. Gratiot County seniors over 65 can call the Gratiot County Commission on Aging at 989-875-5246. Montcalm County seniors over 65 can call the Montcalm County Commission on Aging at 989-831-7476.

As a reminder, we all need to continue preventative measures such as wearing masks properly, social distancing, and hand washing to reduce the spread of COVID in our communities, even as the vaccine is being administered.

We've come so far since the start of the pandemic, and hope is on the horizon. This is a difficult time for us all, but we will get through this, one vaccination at a time.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties.*

*We take action to protect, maintain and improve the health of our community.*

*Advancing innovative solutions to achieve healthier outcomes*

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