

COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A 2.10.21

Proctor: Kassi Krupicka, MPA, Marketing Director

Panel – Paul Edwards, President and CEO, Jamie Koch, RN, Chief Nursing Officer, and Megan Janousek, RN, Infection Control Coordinator

Question 1: What is the process to receive a vaccine at Thayer County Health Services?

Answer 1: Per CDC and our local public health department, Thayer County Health Services is able to vaccinate our patients as part of the 1b tier. The 1b tier is made up of TCHS patients 65 and older and patients 65 and older that live in Thayer County that do not have access to the vaccine through their primary care provider.

Question 2: How are you determining who to vaccinate first and why?

Answer 2: We are vaccinating by age due to it being the most arbitrary factor. So, we began vaccinating ages 90 and above first, then 85 to 89, and so on in increments of five years. Doses are limited so we are only able to vaccinate 50 individuals at a time. Currently we are scheduling 85 and above.

Question 3: Why are the older individuals receiving the vaccine first?

Answer 3: The elderly are the most at risk for severe symptoms, therefore the CDC, DHHS, and our health district have directed vaccination sites to begin with that age group.

Question 4: Is the vaccine safe?

Answer 4: Yes, the vaccine is safe. The vaccination has passed all necessary requirements and was created using scientific methods that have been used and proven for many years.

Question 5: How do I know if I can receive a vaccine at TCHS?

Answer 5: Those eligible to receive a vaccine will receive a letter in the mail and a follow-up phone call to see if they are interested in receiving the vaccine. If they are interested, when doses become available, we will call them to schedule their vaccine appointment.

Question 6: Why are you only able to vaccinate 50 people at a time when other facilities can vaccinate more?

Answer 6: Due to limited quantities, our health department distributes vaccines based on patient population. As more doses are made available, we hope to increase the number of individuals we are able to vaccinate.

Question 7: What if my primary care provider is unable to vaccinate me and I fall into the 1b tier and live in Thayer County and utilize TCHS services?

Answer 7: We are currently working on a process to ensure these types of individuals are vaccinated. Please call us at 402-768-6041 and you will be put in touch with someone who will direct you on next steps.

Question 8: Who should I call if I have questions about receiving the vaccine and eligibility?

Answer 8: Please call the DHHS hotline for eligibility and general vaccine questions at . We are currently experiencing higher than normal call volumes and we ask that you only call us about the vaccine if you wish to speak with your primary care provider about receiving the vaccine. Again, if you live in Thayer County, use our services, are 65 or older and haven't received a letter, you may call us.

Question 9 – Can I get the vaccine if I have already had COVID-19 or received an antibody infusion?

Answer 9: As long as your symptoms have resolved, and you are out of quarantine you may receive the vaccine. For those who received antibody infusions, we are recommending you wait 90 days after you received the infusion.

Question 10 – What time are vaccines being distributed?

Answer 10: Vaccines are only being administered in the afternoons. We have a limited time to use the vaccine from when we puncture the vial, therefore if you arrive too early, such as in the morning, we will not be able to vaccinate you and you will have to come back that afternoon.