



HUMAN SERVICES & HEALTH DEPARTMENT

199 COUNTY ROAD DF ♦ JUNEAU, WISCONSIN 53039-9512

920-386-3500

Becky Bell, Director

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Contact: Abby Sauer, Health Officer 920-386-3670 asauer@co.dodge.wi.us

Dodge County Public Health COVID-19 Update: Vaccinations

Dodge County, WI: A Food and Drug Administration panel recently voted to recommend the approval of COVID 19 vaccines for emergency use. "Emergency use approval is a very important moment in our battle with the COVID 19 virus," said Dodge County Public Health Officer Abby Sauer. "But initial limited availability of large amounts of doses will take weeks and even months to ramp up. So most of the residents of Dodge County need to please continue safe practices to include wearing a mask in public, limiting the size of social gatherings to members of your household, to best of your ability, and taking advantage of available COVID 19 testing."

Initial vaccination plans will include a focus on health care workers and residents of nursing homes and other associated long-term care facilities. There are an estimated 400,000 health care workers in Wisconsin and another estimated 300,000 residents in long-term care facilities. Although not finalized at the time of this article, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) expects to receive approximately 50,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine in the first week it is available, and perhaps another 16,000 doses of Moderna vaccine in the week or weeks following. It is expected however, as we move into 2021, the amount and availability will increase significantly each week. However, the general public should not expect to be able to receive a vaccination from their physician, the local pharmacy or from other sources such as Point of Distribution (or PODs) centers facilitated by local Public Health until perhaps this spring.

Operation Warp Speed, the federal government's COVID 19 vaccination program, recently released information stating the U.S. should be able to distribute enough doses to immunize 100 million citizens by the end of February, 2021. How much of that will be allotted to Wisconsin and subsequently to Dodge County, will remain to be seen, however it is expected to increase our local allotment of doses significantly.

"No vaccine is 100% effective, but vaccines that are only partly effective at protecting a single person can still be extremely effective collectively," recently said Andrea Palm, WI DHS Secretary – designee. "If a large portion of the population is vaccinated, occasional cases may still arise, but enough people will not contract the virus to cause widespread outbreaks."

"As Dodge County Public Health works towards being able to provide a COVID-19 vaccine to larger parts of the population of Dodge County, we will also continue to provide information to our citizens so they can make wise, informed decisions about the vaccine, and also about safe practices we continue to recommend as the vaccine is distributed," continued Sauer.

To read the latest information about COVID-19 people can check the Dodge County Public Health Facebook page, the COVID 19 page of the Dodge Co website, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) websites.

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