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MERCED COUNTY LAUNCHES COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS AND WEBSITE

MERCED COUNTY, CA—The Merced County Department of Public Health will host COVID-19 vaccination clinics, on January 20th, 21th and 22nd in Merced and Los Banos. Only individuals that meet the criteria under Phase 1A along with individuals 65 years and older will be eligible. Due to a limited vaccine supply and to efficiently administer available doses, eligible individuals will be vaccinated by appointment. Registration will be through the newly launched website, www.vaccinatemercedcounty.com. Additional vaccination sites and options are planned and will be activated as the vaccine becomes more widely available.

At this time, Merced County has received fewer vaccine doses than neighboring counties due to the State’s vaccine distribution formula. County officials are currently advocating for larger quantities and have been successful in those efforts to secure additional vaccine doses. A total of 975 doses are available to be administered this week through the Public Health vaccination clinics.

“The shortage of vaccines is a nationwide issue and is not unique to us locally,” said Dr. Salvador Sandoval, Merced County’s Public Health Officer. “We continue to ask everyone to be patient as we work toward securing additional doses of vaccine to serve the needs of our community.”

Additionally, today, Merced County launched a new website to inform the public of COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts and communicate with eligible individuals as it becomes available. The website, www.vaccinatemercedcounty.com, includes a “Vaccine Interest Survey” where users can answer a few short questions, determine their vaccination category (see attached chart), and sign up to be notified when they are eligible to be vaccinated.

Those currently eligible for the vaccine may be notified directly through their employers or care providers; however, eligibility will soon expand to include additional groups within our community. This tool will serve as a way for the County to communicate with and inform members of the public when they become eligible in future phases of the vaccine distribution plan. Merced County is currently in Phase 1A of its distribution plan, and seniors 65+ will begin to receive vaccinations this week, in accordance with updated State guidelines. Those in the Phase 1A category and seniors 65 years and older can use the www.vaccinatemercedcounty.com website to register for further instructions and priority vaccination information. Those who are eligible to be vaccinated at an upcoming clinic while supply is available will receive a link to a State of California registration site.

“COVID-19 is a battle that we’re fighting hard to overcome, and now we have to finish strong,” said Chairman Daron McDaniel of the Merced County Board of Supervisors. “In the process of putting these tools and communications in place, we’ve heard from our constituents. They can be assured that they will know when they’re eligible to be vaccinated and how they can receive a vaccination. They can also be assured that the Board is placing the highest priority on getting these vaccine doses available as quickly as possible.”

The “Vaccinate Merced County” website will be periodically updated as new information becomes available or as the State changes vaccination eligibility criteria. Individuals using the website to receive a vaccination are required to attest that they are submitting correct information, which will then be validated through documentation at the vaccination site. Additional details will be available on the website.

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In addition to vaccinations, the website will also include a feature where community volunteers can sign up to assist with the vaccination efforts in a capacity that fits their abilities and schedules.

As a reminder, it is still a **local and statewide mandate** to wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet for social distancing. Merced County health officials strongly urge all residents to exercise the following safety measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base when handwashing is not possible
- ✓ Stay home and isolate, if you are feeling sick

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines in Merced County: www.countyofmerced.com/vaccines

Follow us on social media for more updates:

- Facebook: Merced County Department of Public Health
 - Join Facebook Live Sessions, every other Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The next session is scheduled for January 28, 2021.
- Instagram: @mercedcountypublichealth

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COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution: Phases 1

As of January 13, 2021

The supply of COVID-19 vaccine is limited, which means that the vaccine will be offered to different groups of people in different phases, starting with our healthcare workers. As more vaccines become available, it will be offered to everyone. Below is a list of groups that will be offered the vaccine in phases, according to their risk of exposure.

- Key:**
- Green circle indicates that the group has been offered the vaccine.
 - Yellow circle indicates that the group is waiting to be offered the vaccine.
 - Red circle indicates that the vaccine is not yet available at this time.

Phase 1A

Tier 1:

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Residents in long-term care settings
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

Tier 2:

- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Public Health field staff
- Primary care clinics, including federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics
- Community health workers, including promotoras

Tier 3:

- Specialty clinics (i.e. optometry, cardiology, neurology, outpatient, surgery, physical therapy, etc.)
- Laboratory workers
- Dental and other oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers
- Veterinarians

Phase 1B

Tier 1:

- **Persons 65 years and older**
- **Frontline Essential Workers**
Sectors: education, childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture

Tier 2:

- **Frontline Essential Workers**
Sectors: transportation and logistics; industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services; critical manufacturing
- **Congregate settings with outbreak risk**
Incarcerated
Homeless

Phase 1C

- **Persons 50-64 years old**
- **Persons 16-49 years old with high risk health conditions**

Other essential workers

- Water and Wastewater
- Chemical and Hazardous Materials
- Finance Services
- IT and Communication

- Government Operations / Community-Based Essential Functions
- Defense
- Energy

- Other groups not included may be added to a comparable phase.

These proposed allocations are based on recommendations by the CDC and ACIP

For more information, visit www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus

Distribución de la vacuna contra COVID-19: Fase 1

Apartir de 13 de enero 2021

La provisión de la vacuna del COVID-19 es limitada, lo que significa que la vacuna se ofrecerá a diferentes grupos de personas en diferentes fases, comenzando por nuestros trabajadores de la salud. A medida que haya más vacunas disponibles, se ofrecerá a todos. A continuación se mostrara una lista de grupos a los cuales se les ofrecerá la vacuna en fases, de acuerdo con su riesgo de exposición.

- Clave:**
-  El círculo verde indica que al grupo se le ha ofrecido la vacuna.
 -  El círculo amarillo indica que el grupo está esperando que le ofrezcan la vacuna.
 -  El círculo rojo indica que la vacuna aún no está disponible para el grupo.

Fase 1A

Nivel 1:

-  Hospitales de cuidados intensivos, psiquiátricos y correccionales
-  Centros de enfermería especializada, centros de vida asistida y entornos similares para personas mayores o médicamente vulnerables
-  Residentes cuidados de largo plazo
-  Paramédicos, técnicos de emergencias médicas y otras personas que brindan servicios médicos de emergencia
-  Centros de diálisis

Nivel 2:

-  Centros de atención intermedia para personas que necesitan supervisión de enfermería y cuidados de apoyo no continuos
-  Atención médica domiciliaria y servicios de apoyo en el hogar
-  Personal de salud pública
-  Clínicas de atención primaria, incluidos centros de salud calificados a nivel federal, centros de salud rurales, clínicas de establecimientos correccionales y clínicas de atención de urgencia
-  Trabajadores de salud comunitarios, incluidas las promotoras

Nivel 3:

-  Clínicas especializadas (por ejemplo, optometría, cardiología, neurología, ambulatorio, cirugía, fisioterapia, etc.)
-  Trabajadores de laboratorio
-  Clínicas de salud dental
-  Personal de la farmacia no incluidos/as en los niveles anteriores
-  Veterinarios

Fase 1B

Nivel 1:

-  **Personas de 65 años o mayores**
-  **Trabajadores esenciales de primera línea**
Sector: educación, cuidado de niños/as, servicios de emergencia y alimentación y agricultura

Nivel 2:

-  **Trabajadores esenciales de primera línea**
Sector: transporte y logística; instalaciones y servicios industriales, comerciales, residenciales y de refugio; fabricación crítica
-  **Lugares de congregación con riesgo de brotes**
Personas que están encarcelados/as
Personas sin hogar

Fase 1C

-  **Individuos de 50-64 años**
-  **Personas de 16 a 64 años con condiciones de salud de alto riesgo**
-  **Otros trabajadores esenciales**
 - Agua y aguas residuales
 - Materiales químicos y peligrosos
 - Servicios financieros
 - Informática y comunicación
 - Operaciones gubernamentales / Funciones esenciales basadas en la comunidad
 - Defensa
 - Energía

 Otros grupos no incluidos pueden agregarse a una fase comparable.

Estas propuestas se basan en recomendaciones de los CDC y ACIP

Para obtener más información, visite www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus