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Delaware County Begins COVID-19 Vaccinations

Delaware County hospitals have begun administering COVID-19 vaccinations to essential health care workers during the early phases of the Vaccine Distribution Plan. The Pennsylvania Department of Health is finalizing a plan to provide COVID-19 vaccines to residents and staff of long-term care facilities.

Due to the limited supply of the vaccine, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and EMS providers are the priority for vaccination distribution. Delaware County Hospitals have received vaccination doses and are expected to receive more in the coming weeks. All three health systems in Delaware County have been vaccinating frontline healthcare workers and will be continuing to vaccinate to provide all healthcare workers protection from the virus.

The County continues to plan for wider vaccination distribution to the medical community and to the public. As more vaccines become available, Delaware County will work with the Chester County Health Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Health to distribute the vaccine more widely. Distribution will include several permanent vaccination distribution sites, at least one mobile site and distribution at schools, businesses and other locations.

Delaware County Healthcare Providers can register to receive information and updates from the Chester County Health Department:

https://chesterco.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9BwMAAtMeyzmoILj

Currently, there are two authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 which are being distributed throughout Pennsylvania, including in Delaware County. Both vaccines require two doses for full effectiveness. A second shot is given three weeks after the first shot in order to provide the most protection against COVID-19.

Vaccines are safe, effective, and a key strategy to protect all residents from serious illness. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has ensured the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines. The requirements to show that the vaccines are functional and safe have been met, with a quicker process and an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). More information on the vaccine approval process can be found here:

www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained

The COVID-19 vaccine will not be the cure for the virus. It is another tool in the fight against COVID-19. Residents must continue to practice other proven mitigation efforts, including wearing a mask, hand washing, and physical distancing.

The Chester County Health Department had launched a website providing information and updates on the COVID-19 vaccine: <https://chesco.org/4822/COVID19Vaccine>