

January 11, 2021

Health Alert: COVID - 19

Dear Colleagues,

As the US rolls out the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for COVID-19, all of us as health professionals are anxious to have the vaccine distributed as quickly and as widely as possible. Unfortunately, the demand for vaccine far exceeds the current supply. Despite Gov. Whitmer's message that we may now proceed to phase 1B distribution, Ottawa County, like many other Michigan counties, is still in phase 1A due to a very limited allotment of vaccine. In fact, this past week the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) received only 12.5% of its requested weekly allotment (7,800 doses requested, 975 doses received).

Our goal is to finish phase 1A in the next 1-2 weeks and then begin vaccinating our most vulnerable population - - those individuals ages 65 and older. Because of this you will no doubt receive inquiries from patients requesting to be vaccinated, and you may find the following information helpful to pass along to them:

*To sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine, go to [www.miOttawa.org/covid19](http://www.miOttawa.org/covid19), click on "I Want the Vaccine" and fill out the attached questionnaire. You will be notified via email when your phase is open for vaccination and where you can go to receive the vaccine.*

*Please note that this sign-up is for notification purposes only. Actual eligibility and vaccine availability will be determined by the location administering the vaccine.*

*If you have further questions or would like additional information concerning local vaccine distribution, please call 616-396-5266 and select option #4. You may also obtain additional information from the Ottawa County website listed above and from [www.vaccinatewestmi.com](http://www.vaccinatewestmi.com).*

We have received word that some physicians are telling patients that if they have been diagnosed previously with COVID-19 that they do not need the vaccine. Please note that this is not the advice from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and that the vaccine is recommended for **ALL** individuals irrespective of a prior COVID-19 diagnosis unless they are still in their isolation period, are still symptomatic or have medical contraindications to the vaccine.

Also, please note that the COVID-19 vaccine should not be administered within 14 days of another vaccine, either before or after.

We will try to keep you updated on important changes as they occur. In the meantime, please contact me if you have further questions or if there is specific information that you or your colleagues feel would be helpful regarding the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Sincerely,



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