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Whiteside County Health Department Update on Vaccination as Illinois Expands Vaccine to All Residents April 12th

March 18, 2021 - Today, Illinois announced the plan to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to all Illinoisians 16 and older on April 12th. The State believes that increased vaccine production and supply, the addition of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine and the increasing number of vaccine providers will allow many of Illinois vulnerable individuals to be vaccinated before the 12th or supported after.

Whiteside County Health Department (WCHD) and our vaccine partners, look forward to seeing additional vaccine be allocated to our community so we can get it into our residents' arms. At this time, the Whiteside County Health Department and our hospital partners are still focused on vaccinating individuals 65+, and Phase 1a and Phase 1b eligible employees.

While more than 11 thousand 1st doses have been administered to Whiteside County residents, allocations have not been quite enough to cover Whiteside's eligible Phase 1b population. Whiteside County's Phase 1b population includes around 11 thousand individuals age 65+ and a number of frontline essential workers. Due the size of this group, the Health Department has not yet begin vaccinating individuals with high risk conditions or disabilities who are included as part of Phase 1b+.

As we approach the April 12th eligibility expansion, WCHD and vaccine partners will continue to focus on reaching those most vulnerable, including individuals age 65+, frontline essential workers, and those with high risk health conditions and disabilities. As part of this focus, WCHD will be working with partners to offer more open registration for individuals who fall into one of the currently eligible groups. As a reminder, this vaccine rollout will take time and not all individuals will be able to be vaccinated immediately.

To stay up to date on vaccine availability please continue to follow local media, Whiteside County Health Department social media and check the Whiteside County Health Department's website (whitesidehealth.org) under COVID Information

Additional Resources for Finding Vaccine Providers Near you

- IDPH toll-free Hotline open 7 days a week from 6am to midnight
 - 1-833-621-1284
- Search Vaccine Providers by Zip Code
 - <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>
- State Supported Vaccine Sites open to All Illinois Residents
 - <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/statewide-vaccination-locations>

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