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## Whiteside County Health Department Opens Registration to Whiteside County Residents Age 65 and Older

March 23, 2021 - As Illinois approaches the April 12th expansion, the Whiteside County Health Department (WCHD) will be offering Open registration to Whiteside County residents 65 years of age and older who have not yet been vaccinated. Earlier in our response, when vaccine supplies were scarce, WCHD utilized a waitlist to schedule appointments by date of registration. As the situation has continued to evolve and change, so is our approach.

Moving forward, we will no longer be scheduling appointments based on the date an individual was added to our waitlist. Instead we will offer open registration to all Whiteside County residents age 65+. This change is made as we anticipate additional increases to vaccine supplies, more and more of our 65+ waitlist residents become vaccinated, and Illinois encourages local health departments to offer open appointments. We hope that by opening registration and removing this barrier to scheduling appointments we can reach more of our 65+ residents before the April 12th deadline.

The scheduling system we are currently using has been provided to us by the State of Illinois and is currently being utilized across the State by multiple providers. This system allows residents to find and book appointments for vaccination at a variety of locations, if they meet eligibility requirements. Additionally this system is supported by IDPH's toll-free hotline 7 days a week. As with all systems, times of high traffic may result in temporary instability. If individuals encounter errors or have difficulty making an appointment, please wait a few minutes and try again. Additional support is available via IDPH's hotline below.

### To make an appointment as a 65+ Whiteside Resident or for a 65+ Whiteside County Resident:

- **Online:** <https://covidvaccination.dph.illinois.gov/>
- **Phone:** IDPH's toll-free Hotline open 7 days a week from 6am to midnight
  - 1-833-621-1284

### Additional resources for finding vaccine 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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