



"Striving Toward a Healthier Community."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stark County Health Department Creates Registration Process for Those Who Can Receive COVID-19 Vaccine During Phase 1A

(Jackson Twp, OH) The Stark County Health Department has created a registration process for facilities or groups in the department's health jurisdiction who wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Those facilities or groups named in Phase 1A by the Ohio Department of Health (below), are asked to follow the process explained in this release. The Stark County Health Department will contact the facility or group to schedule the appointment times for their staff, patients, residents etc. when the time comes.

"We have received many calls from individuals and facilities in the past few days requesting the new COVID-19 vaccine," said Sherry Smith, MS, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing Services at the Stark County Health Department.

The Stark County Health Department is advising those groups named in Phase 1A to visit [StarkHealth.org](https://starkhealth.org) to download a spreadsheet to enter information on those that want to be vaccinated. The finished spreadsheet should then be emailed to the department at covidvaccine@starkhealth.org. This will help the Nursing Services Department keep record of those needing the vaccine. There is no guarantee at this time when every group listed in Phase 1A of the Ohio Vaccination Program will be able to receive the vaccine from the Stark County Health Department.

"We are hoping to vaccinate everyone in our county who wants the vaccine, when the time comes," said Smith. "However, we do not know how many doses we will be sent or how many additional shipments we will receive. There will only be a limited supply in the earliest stages until production catches up with demand. We are committed to an equitable distribution of a safe and effective vaccine."

Those facilities in the 17 Townships, 12 Villages, and the cities of Louisville, North Canton, and Canal Fulton are within the jurisdiction of the Stark County Health Department.

Those in Phase 1A of the Ohio Vaccination Program are as follows:

People to be vaccinated in congregate care facilities during Phase 1A include:

- Residents and staff of nursing homes and assisted living facilities not enrolled in the federal pharmacy program.
- People with developmental disabilities and those with mental health disorders including substance use disorders who live in group homes, residential facilities, or centers and staff at those locations not enrolled in the federal pharmacy program.

Healthcare providers prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1A should be those with the greatest occupational risk for exposure to and/or transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Examples of prioritized high-risk healthcare workers include (in no specific priority order):

- Home health/hospice workers not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- Emergency Medical Services responders.
- Primary care practitioners, including family medicine and general medicine providers.
- Freestanding EDs, urgent care, pharmacies, and dialysis centers not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- OB-GYN practitioners not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- Federally Qualified Health Center providers.
- Dental providers.
- Surgeons not vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems.
- Mobile unit practitioners.
- Healthcare providers, including public health employees, at risk for exposure to and/or transmission of SARS-CoV-2, such as vaccinators.
- Transport and janitorial support staff of healthcare facilities.

The Stark County Combined General Health District (Stark County Health Department) was founded in 1920 and is celebrating a century of health. The department is currently the ninth largest health district in the State of Ohio which serves the public health needs of over 250,000 people. The jurisdiction of the Stark County District is that of the 17 Townships, 12 Villages, and the cities of Louisville, North Canton, and Canal Fulton. The mission of the department is to assess, protect, promote, and improve the health of Stark County through leadership, quality service, and community partnerships.

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