



## Knox County Health Department

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### **KCHD did not turn down COVID-19 vaccine and will continue to receive standard allotments**

*Knoxville, Tenn.* – The Knox County Health Department has not turned down receiving Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and will continue to receive standard allotments from the State.

This week, the State asked KCHD its preference for receiving one vaccine over the other. This conversation was completely unrelated to the events that occurred with the Pfizer vaccine KCHD announced on Wednesday.

Moderna is easier to store and handle, due to less stringent temperature requirements and is packaged in smaller allotments (100 doses compared to 975 of Pfizer) – which makes Moderna a better choice for KCHD to share with partners and take to smaller community vaccination clinics. For these reasons, KCHD told the state they preferred to receive Moderna if given a choice.

“We never asked not to be sent Pfizer, we only stated a preference for receiving Moderna,” said Senior Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Martha Buchanan. “The bottom line is this: This preference has no bearing on the volume of vaccine that KCHD or our community will receive, and we will continue to push vaccine out to our community as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

The amount of vaccine that KCHD receives from the State will not be affected.

“Knox County’s decision not to receive additional Pfizer vaccine at this time is not at all related to the incident resulting in lost vaccine doses,” said Dr. Michelle Fiscus, Medical Director of TDH’s Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program. “We have frequent conversations with partners, including the Knox County Health Department, and work together to determine which vaccine will best suit the needs of the partner and the state. Knox County Health Department chose to receive Moderna vaccine next week. The choice was not a punitive action, and again, is not the result of what occurred with the missing Pfizer doses.”

Those who received their first dose of Pfizer vaccine through KCHD will still receive a second dose of Pfizer.

To date, more than 62,000 vaccinations have been administered in Knox County.

**About Knox County Health Department:**

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD's broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

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