



Knox County Health Department

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Nearly 4,000 High-Priority Citizens Vaccinated by KCHD

Knoxville, Tenn. - Just over two weeks after receiving the first batch of COVID-19 vaccinations, the Knox County Health Department has vaccinated nearly 4,000 people. That includes the 500 who were vaccinated in roughly three hours during last Saturday's event at the Expo Center – a tremendous move that allowed the department to vaccinate qualifying individuals in an efficient and timely manner.

In addition, KCHD scheduled more than 200 vaccination appointments this week for those 75 years and older.

KCHD will continue to deploy multiple strategies to provide vaccinations to the community. Qualifying individuals should choose the opportunity that's most conducive to their health and medical situation. For example, if the weather or a medical situation prevents an individual from waiting in line, please wait to schedule an appointment.

Vaccination opportunities will continue to be announced on the health department [website](#), social media channels and through local media partners.

“We are encouraged by the amount of people who are interested in getting the vaccine,” said KCHD Senior Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Martha Buchanan. “Though it will take the vaccination of the majority of our community to effectively reduce the burden of this disease, people have to understand that, for the foreseeable future, demand for the vaccine is going to outpace supply and we continue to ask for patience as we work to vaccinate as many Knox Countians as we can.”

Tennessee is among the top states in the country vaccinating its citizens for COVID-19 per capita. Knox County is playing an active role in that.

“We, like the rest of the country, are in a situation unlike anything we've seen before,” said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. “That said, I am extremely pleased with our vaccination efforts to date. The big takeaway is this: Thousands of Knox Countians considered high-risk and vulnerable, due to their profession or their age, have been vaccinated. That is certainly a flicker of the light at the end of the tunnel.”



As calls increase, the department is working to add more phone lines to the Public Information Line (865-215-5555) and offer online registration for vaccination appointments. Additional information will be released as its available.

KCHD continues to vaccinate those in Phases 1a1, 1a2 and those 75 years and older. Phase 1a1 includes in-patient health care providers, first responders with direct exposure to the public and staff members and residents of long-term care facilities. Phase 1a2 includes those primarily working in outpatient health care settings. The full outline of Phase 1a1 and 1a2 groups can be found in the statewide [plan](#).

Residents and staff of long-term care facilities will receive their vaccinations through a federal partnership with select private pharmacies – not KCHD.

“Until experts full understand the protection a COVID-19 vaccine provides, it remains incredibly important that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, continues to practice the Five Core Actions in every setting,” said Dr. Buchanan. “These measures, if practiced consistently, will reduce the burden of disease in our community.”

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.

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