

Vaccination Update from Brown County Public Health

Brown County Public Health has completed about 98% of the Priority group 1A that includes Skilled Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities, Emergency Medical Services, Dialysis, and other Health Care Workers. Brown County Public Health has an estimated 95% completion of E-12/childcare that live and work Brown County. The next priority population that Brown County Public Health will be vaccinating is the 65 plus Minnesota identified priority group.

Area pharmacies and healthcare clinics in our region are also reaching out to the 65/75 plus and scheduling them for COVID 19 vaccinations at their locations.

Healthcare clinics are identifying persons 65/75 plus through a random selection process and will call individuals when their name is selected.

Pharmacies in our area are part of the federal vaccination program in Minnesota. The pharmacies that are included in vaccinating through that program in Minnesota are Wal Mart, Thrifty White, and Hy-Vee. The pharmacy programs are accessed online to make an appointment:

Wal Mart: <https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302>

Thrifty White: <https://www.thriftywhite.com/covid19vaccine>

Hy-Vee: <https://www.hy-vee.com/my-pharmacy/covid-vaccine-consent>

Brown County Public Health is focusing on certain focus populations that are 65 plus at this time. These include but are not limited to multifamily senior housing, veterans, and hard to reach populations. We hope to be able to broaden our reach to the 65 plus in the next few weeks by using a survey process to determine a database waiting list. When that goes live we will distribute the information through all media outlets and community partners that interact with the senior population.

We encourage all those 65 plus to sign up for all available opportunities and take the first opportunity they are offered if it is within a distance that they are able to travel. Once they get the vaccine they can simply just decline any additional opportunities that are offered.

The amount of vaccine that healthcare, public health, and pharmacies are getting is extremely limited compared to the demand. We are all working to vaccinate people as soon as the vaccine is shipped to us.

All Minnesotans can now sign up to get connected to a COVID-19 vaccine! The COVID-19 Vaccine Connector is an online tool to find out when, where, and how to get your vaccine. It's safe, secure, and free. Sign up at <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/> or call 833-431-2053.

While vaccine is an important step in the pandemic, it is also still important to practice the protective recommendations which include:

- 6 foot social distancing,

- staying home when sick,
- wearing a mask when inside in public and outside if you cannot social distance
- wear a mask over your nose AND mouth
- If your healthcare provider has told you not to wear a mask due to health problems please consider wearing a face shield
- Diligent hand hygiene and cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Avoid socially gathering with people outside of your immediate household and if you do, wear a mask indoors and outdoors

It is extremely important that everyone take the protective recommendations seriously, to reduce COVID-19 transmission. It will take time before vaccine is offered and available to the general public so the protective recommendations are still very important to follow.

Brown County Public Health is posting vaccination phase updates for its department on its weekly dashboard. You can find that at:

<https://gis.co.brown.mn.us/portal/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/a46d3d560e3643a8bdb43f97cf9e1f01>