

State says it could have enough shots for herd immunity early this summer

Posted on Friday, Mar 19, 2021

DHS Deputy Secretary Julie Willems Van Dijk says she expects enough COVID-19 vaccine supply to achieve herd immunity by the end of June, but that doesn't mean all Wisconsinites will want a shot.

Herd immunity would need about 80 percent of the population fully vaccinated, health officials say. The June estimate is based on dose allocation numbers from the federal government, Willems Van Dijk explained.

"Supply is one thing and then administration and demand are the other two important legs of the stool," she said Thursday, adding the state continues to expand vaccination clinics around the state.

"All we'll need over the next few months is the public raising their hands and saying, 'I'm ready, I want to protect myself, I want to protect my family with these very safe vaccines, and I want to protect my neighborhood and my community.'" she said. "Wouldn't that be a wonderful Fourth of July celebration to have hit 80 percent community immunity in the state of Wisconsin?"

>> WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)

Twenty-three percent of Wisconsinites have at least started their COVID-19 vaccine series and 13.4 percent are fully vaccinated, according to DHS' vaccine dashboard.

The state has put more than 2.1 million shots in people's arms. More than 1.3 million people have gotten at least one dose of either the single-dose Johnson & Johnson or the two-dose series Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

More than 70 percent of Wisconsinites age 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine; more than 44 percent are fully vaccinated.