

Waukesha Co. Exec. Farrow: County and area healthcare systems coordinate vaccination of residents 65 and older

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(Waukesha, WI)- Waukesha County Public Health and its healthcare system partners Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Wisconsin, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, and ProHealth Care are coordinating vaccination of adults 65 and older. This scalable, community-based strategy leverages existing healthcare, emergency service provider, educational and business partnerships to vaccinate the population while maintaining existing COVID-19 infrastructure.

Waukesha County's healthcare providers already serve most residents aged 65 and older. These providers have begun reaching out to patients to notify them when they can schedule a vaccination appointment.

"Waukesha County's hospital partners have been working together for months with the common goal of protecting our residents," said Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow. "Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin stepped up to help us form a network of hospital professionals to coordinate logistics. This partnership has expanded to include all Waukesha County healthcare systems and will allow us to continue coordination as we move to different phases of this process. We truly value what each organization brings to the table."

Currently, healthcare workers are getting vaccinated so they can assist in vaccinating the rest of the community. While vaccine is very limited, residents should understand that, even though they are eligible to be vaccinated, it may be several weeks until they are able to schedule an appointment.

- Residents with established healthcare providers and pharmacies are asked to wait to hear from their provider to learn how to schedule an appointment. They should not reach out to healthcare providers directly to avoid overwhelming call centers and inboxes.
- Residents who do not have established healthcare providers will have opportunities to be vaccinated by local healthcare systems, pharmacies and community vaccination clinics that are currently being planned.

Waukesha County continues to match unaffiliated healthcare providers, like dentists and home healthcare professionals, with hospitals, pharmacies, the consortium of fire departments in Waukesha County and other organizations that have registered to vaccinate. This network will expand significantly as DHS provides final approval and access to vaccines to additional organizations in the weeks ahead. Waukesha County is also assisting organizations that are interested in becoming registered vaccinators. Organizations that want to be connected to vaccine or help with the vaccination effort can find more information at www.waukeshacounty.gov/covidvaccine.