



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2021

FAYETTE COUNTY ESTABLISHES COVID-19 VACCINE PLANNING TASKFORCE

Uniontown, PA – The Fayette County Commissioners, together with the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Uniontown Hospital, Highlands Hospital, Senator Pat Stefano (Chairman of the PA Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee), Fayette EMS, the Fayette Chamber of Commerce and the Intermediate Unit 1, have established a COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Taskforce to assure Fayette County residents have organized access to the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.

The Taskforce, under the direction of the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency, is working with local providers in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines, to organize agencies, businesses, and individuals into the groups required so that the vaccines are accessible to those who wish to receive them.

The Taskforce met this week and reported that phase 1A, which includes long-term care facility residents, health care personnel, etc., are currently receiving vaccines. As phase 1A vaccinations are completed, preparation for distribution to groups and individuals in phase 1B is underway. This group includes senior living facilities (not nursing/personal care homes as they are in phase 1A), first responders, educational workers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, US Postal Service workers, manufacturers, grocery store workers, clergy, public transit workers, and preschool/adult educators.

This next phase of vaccine roll-out is far larger than those included in phase 1A and will require much more organization. To that end, the Taskforce is providing the following information:

- Vaccines will eventually be available to all groups and individuals who desire to receive it. As this process will take time, the Taskforce is asking for patience. Please understand that there will be a plan in place and no one will be overlooked.
- As vaccinations are completed for those in phase 1A, planning is underway for phase 1B. The Taskforce is asking for those identified groups in phase 1B to designate one leader within their organization to communicate with Fayette County EMA. For example, employees of a day care center could be represented by the director, or a senior living facility could be represented by the building manager. Once a leader is selected, the leader should email covidinfo@fcema.org to register the group. Having all members/residents/employees of a group contact Fayette County EMA separately will slow down the process tremendously.
- Once the group leader has contacted Fayette County EMA, please be patient. There is no need to keep calling as the organization/living facility/school/ etc., has been registered and Fayette County EMA will contact the group leader as soon as vaccine is available.
- Some vaccinations will be done in a large group or community setting, some will be done at pharmacies, and some will be done at specific locations. Please be aware that in accordance with CDC/Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines, ALL vaccinations will require an

appointment. Please do not go to a location without an appointment as the vaccine will not be administered.

- If not completed already, professional, licensed local pharmacies who wish to be included as a provider should contact Fayette County EMA.
- All questions or further inquiry should be directed to the Fayette County EMA at covidinfo@fcema.org.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

For more information, contact Muriel Nuttall, Fayette Chamber Executive Director, at 724-437-4571, mnuttall@fayettechamber.com or Kristi Rooker Kassimer, Public Relations Specialist, at 412-691-0262, kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info.