



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2021

FAYETTE COUNTY ONE OF STATE'S TOP COVID-19 VACCINATION SITES

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County has surpassed a major COVID-19 vaccination milestone, as its task force continues hosting clinics in various communities.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health Website, Fayette County currently ranks 9th out of the state's 67 counties for its rate of vaccinations per 100,000 people.

"This vaccination rate reflects the number of citizens in the county who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine," WVU Medicine Uniontown Hospital Vice President of Operations Mark Dillon said. "This is an incredible achievement as our county, much like the rest of the state, faced the daunting task a little more than six weeks ago of rapidly mass vaccinating our community with limited resources and disjointed registries for people seeking the vaccine across the region."

Since the vaccine became available in Fayette County, hospitals, pharmacies and other providers have administered 33,578 doses to county residents, according to the DOH.

Dillon said the task force now has a "smooth registration process" and vaccination clinics "putting thousands of shots in arms each week."

"The task force has done amazing work and met the challenges of this moment," he said. "WVU Medicine Uniontown Hospital; our community and county leaders; and other healthcare providers in the region have successfully collaborated to provide this service for all those that depend on us."

The Fayette County COVID-19 Vaccination Task Force launched its online registry Feb. 8 and has since signed up thousands of residents to receive the vaccine.

Its members would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all those who have volunteered their time at various clinics, as well as the many local businesses and citizens who have donated food and other supplies for those volunteers.

"The task force is ready to set up and hold clinics constantly as supply is granted from the state," Chamber Executive Director Muriel Nuttall said. "Second doses of the vaccine continue to arrive, and as we receive notice of more first doses coming in, we'll get more people scheduled."

Fayette County Commissioner Chairman Dave Lohr said the task force's efforts have been a "tremendous undertaking" and "outstanding example of what we can accomplish when we all work together, pooling our resources and pulling in the same direction."

"The scope of the project is truly Herculean, as we strive to ensure that everyone in Fayette County who wants to be vaccinated actually receives a vaccine," Lohr said. "Our success at getting this up and running is setting the standard for other counties and I applaud the efforts of everyone involved."

Lohr also highlighted the challenges the task force faces, as Fayette County boasts a significant number of citizens classified under Phase 1A, or “high risk,” and is “limited in how many we can vaccinate by how much vaccine we receive.”

“Appointments are being scheduled as quickly and efficiently as possible, as vaccines become available. Everyone should be aware that calls to schedule vaccines are coming from a number of sources, so you might not recognize the number on your phone as being vaccine-related,” he said. “That being said, it’s imperative that everyone on the registry answer all incoming calls, or you might miss the call you were waiting for.”

Commissioner Vince Vicites said the task force has “collaborated very effectively to provide leadership to get shots in the arms of Fayette County citizens.”

“We’re off to a good start, but we still have a lot of hard work ahead of us,” Vicites said. “I want to thank all the volunteers that have helped us in this endeavor, because we could not have done it without you.”

Vicites also thanked all Fayette County citizens who have utilized the vaccination registry for “being patient and understanding the challenges of this major effort.”

“We want to help everybody that wants a vaccine,” he said. “We will continue working hard to achieve herd immunity in Fayette County.”

Commissioner Scott Dunn said that the task force, in acting as a cohesive group, being able to vaccinate “thousands of people in an orderly process” is very impressive.

“The registry has eliminated the requirement of our citizens to sit on hold on the phone for hours, hoping to get an appointment,” Dunn said.

Dunn also reminded citizens that the task force is currently limited in its efforts by the amount of vaccine received from the state.

“It can be a slow process, and we appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding,” he said. “The number of volunteers participating in this process is a credit to Fayette County.”

In addition to the second doses scheduled, Fayette County Overdose Taskforce will host a Drug Take Back event at the Uniontown location. Jana Kyle, Executive Director of Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission and Overdose Taskforce Chair said, “This program offers an opportunity for our residents to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment. Unused or expired prescription medication are a public safety issue, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse, and overdose.”

Residents can bring these medications to the clinic for proper disposal. Medications can be in the original prescription bottles but it is important to remove the label or other identifying information.

For more information about the Fayette County COVID-19 Vaccination Task Force, access the latest official fact sheet at www.fayettecountypa.org. Vaccine details are also available at www.PA.gov.

Additionally, citizens may call the task force hotline at 724-466-4142, or email covidinfo@fcema.org to receive the most up-to-date vaccination information.

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.

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