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ANSWERS to FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will I qualify for my shot? How is it decided who gets a vaccination?

The Illinois Department of Public Health has instructed all providers to approach the distribution of vaccines in a two phase approach. Phase 1 is divided into 3 subphases: 1A-Healthcare Personnel and Long Term Care Facility Residents and Staff; 1B-Persons 65+ (subject to change as directed by the State of Illinois), frontline essential workers as defined by ACIP and directed by the State of Illinois, sheltered populations/homeless/day programs/inmates; and 1C-Persons 16-64 with high risk medical conditions, other essential workers as defined by ACIP and directed by the State of Illinois. Phase 2-The rest of the population

Where are we now?

Montgomery County, like the rest of the State of Illinois, is currently in phase 1A.

When will we advance to phase 1B?

When the majority of the State has concluded vaccinating the 1A population, a notification from the State of Illinois will be given to move to the next phase. The reason for moving forward together as a whole is so that one region, or county, would not have a huge influx of individuals outside their jurisdiction seeking vaccination and dwindling their supply.

How do I sign up for a vaccination?

Currently you can call the Montgomery County Health Department at 217-532-2001 during normal business hours to have your name put on a list, or email mchdpublichealth@gmail.com with your name, age, and phone number. You will be called with more information when it becomes available. Please be patient, as call volumes are high.

Will children be vaccinated?

Currently, the Pfizer vaccine can be given to anyone 16 years or older. The Moderna vaccine can be given to those 18 years or older. When a pediatric vaccine becomes available, the public will be notified.

Will I have to wear a mask after getting vaccinated?

Yes. The current CDC and IDPH guidelines recommend continued mask wearing, social distancing, and frequent handwashing.

Will I be quarantined after being vaccinated?

Yes. It is possible for anyone to contract the virus even after receiving the vaccination. If you test positive, you can be contagious and spread the virus to others. If you are exposed to a confirmed positive, the guidance currently states quarantining is necessary.

Why hasn't the Health Department vaccinated the staff and residents of the long term care facilities yet?

All of the long term care facilities in Montgomery County have signed up to receive their COVID vaccinations through the federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program. Through this program, the facilities will receive their vaccinations through participating pharmacies, CVS and Walgreens, instead of the Health Department.

To view the most current State of Illinois Vaccination Plan, visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccination-plan