



## Ford County Public Health Department

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For Immediate Release

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### **Ford County Encourages Residents to Vaccinate**

**Paxton-** Ford County Public Health Department is encouraging eligible individuals to register for the vaccine. Ford County residents can receive a COVID-19 vaccine through the health department, Gibson Area Hospital, and a limited number of pharmacies. All three locations are following the vaccination plan phases and are by appointment only. The following groups are eligible to receive the vaccine:

- Phase 1A: Essential workforce
- Phase 1B: Critical workforce
- Phase 1B-Plus: Obesity, diabetes, pulmonary diseases, smoking, heart conditions, chronic kidney disease, cancer, solid organ transplant, sickle cell disease, immunocompromised, anyone with a disability, and pregnancy.

To receive a vaccine through FCPHD, you must live in Ford County and/or be employed in Ford County. To register for the vaccine, please register online at [www.fordcountyphd.org](http://www.fordcountyphd.org). These doses will be administered at Gibson Area Hospital. The health department plans to conduct vaccine clinics through the health department and will notify the public as those become available.

Gibson Area Hospital can also provide COVID-19 vaccines to all GAHHS patients 18 and older, regardless of county of residence. To register through GAHHS, please contact your provider's office.

In addition to local health departments, chain pharmacies are also able to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. By visiting the IDPH website, residents can find vaccine locations by typing in their zip code and find pharmacies within 60 miles. Documentation is required to show you are eligible for the vaccine as part of a priority group.

Governor Pritzker announced Thursday, March 18, 2021 that on April 12<sup>th</sup>, the vaccination phases will no longer be in effect because of an influx in vaccine availability.

Please continue to follow FCPHD's social media pages, website, and local radio stations for the most current information. FCPHD wants to thank Ford County residents for their patience and understanding as we work diligently to vaccinate the public in the most efficient and effective manner.