## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Vaccine Arrives at JACOHD, Sign Up Through Vaccine Survey Tool

JACKSON COUNTY, MO (January 6, 2021) – The Jackson County Health Department (JACOHD) has received its first shipment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination clinics will commence Wednesday, January 6.

JACOHD is following the <u>state of Missouri's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan</u>. The state is currently in Phase 1A of distribution, which focuses on long-term care facility residents and staff as well as patient-facing healthcare workers.

This week's appointments were made available to those who are in Phase 1A who filled out the department's <u>COVID-19 vaccine survey tool</u>. These appointment slots have filled up, but more appointments for Phase 1A individuals will be available in the coming weeks.

JACOHD encourages all individuals who live or work in Jackson County and are interested in receiving the vaccine to fill out the <u>survey</u>. As the vaccine becomes available to future phases, JACOHD will contact individuals who completed the <u>survey</u> with further instructions on scheduling an appointment.

The survey asks for contact information, occupation, and pre-existing medical conditions. Responses from the survey will help JACOHD determine which phase of the state's vaccination plan residents fall under.

"This is one way that we can get information out to individuals as quickly as possible," said Jackson County Health Department Director Bridgette Shaffer. "We know people are looking for information, and we want to provide access to it whenever it becomes available."

When weekly slots open up, appointments are first-come, first-served to each group. Appointments are filling up quickly, and it is recommended that people sign up as quickly as possible to secure their desired time.

"Distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is how we will beat this virus, prevent unnecessary deaths and get back to some sense of normalcy," said Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. "I encourage everyone in Jackson County to fill out the health department survey and reserve your spot to get vaccinated. As soon as the appropriate phase opens, I will be rolling up my sleeve to get the vaccine, but the focus right now must be on protecting our healthcare workers as well as nursing home staff and residents who are most at risk."

Per the guidance provided by the CDC, Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations will not be provided to those under the age of 16.

For more information on the vaccine distribution plan, visit <a href="https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/">https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/</a>.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines, please visit our blog:

- 7 Things to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

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The Jackson County Health Department's mission is to offer services, provide programs, and advocate for policies so that all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. Find more information about how the health department is fostering a community where all people can live their healthiest lives at <a href="https://jacohd.org">https://jacohd.org</a>.