

NEWS RELEASE

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McLeod County Health and Humans Services urges patience for those wanting the COVID-19 vaccine

Glencoe, MN - McLeod County Health and Human Services urges residents to be patient, continue to wear masks, and social distance while initial doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are distributed.

"We have been working with the South Central Healthcare Coalition and other partners to help ensure that the vaccine gets to those who are in priority populations," says Berit Spors, Health and Human Services Director with McLeod County. "The fact is that there are limited doses of the vaccine available during these initial shipments, and it will take time, perhaps months, before it's readily available to the general public."

COVID-19 vaccine is expected to arrive to the region in the coming days. Vaccinations of priority populations, including healthcare workers and long term care residents and staff, are to begin sometime next week. Exact availability dates are being coordinated with State and local healthcare officials. Additional allocations of the vaccine are expected on a weekly basis.

"We are confident that the vaccine is safe as it has been proven to be 95-percent effective in clinical trials." says Eric Weller, Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coordinator for the South Central Healthcare Coalition. "We also know that the arrival of the vaccine does not mean an immediate end to this pandemic. People will still need to wear masks, social distance and seek medical care if they are feeling ill."

Weller and Spors encourage people to remain home as much as possible, stay at least 6 feet away from other people if you are in public places, telework if you can, and avoid close contact with people who are sick. In addition, if you are 65 and older or have certain underlying medical conditions, stay at home and avoid situations where you could be exposed, including travel.

Details about the further availability of the COVID-19 vaccine will be released when they become available. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Minnesota Department of Health's website at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine.html>

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