

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**Media Contact:**

Barbara Mitchell, Public Information Officer

[barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org](mailto:barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org)

Jennifer Dunlay, Risk Communicator

[jennifer.dunlay@jocogov.org](mailto:jennifer.dunlay@jocogov.org)

Media Line: (913) 477-8436

**Phase 2, Tier 1 vaccine distribution begins this week in Johnson County**

Tier 1: People 65+, emergency responders, education, childcare and food and agriculture workers

**(JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS – Jan. 25)** This week, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment will start vaccinating those in Phase 2 of the state’s vaccination plan, beginning with those 80 and older.

Using the initial [Phase 2 survey](#) responses, JCDHE contacted respondents by phone and email in the 80+ category to book a vaccine appointment. Based on vaccines supplies received from the state, all 7,584 slots have been booked for this week. This includes those 80+ and those from Phase 1 (primarily health care workers), who are either receiving their first or second doses of vaccine. Vaccine clinics will be held Tuesday through Friday, this week. When the 80+ group has been vaccinated, JCDHE will move to the next age group.

Johnson County has prioritized residents and workers in Phase 2 based on those at higher risk for complications and COVID-19 exposure. Phase 2 includes three tiers.

- **Tier 1:** 65+, educators/school staff, childcare staff, emergency responders and food and agriculture workers (additional subgroups will be identified as vaccine becomes available)
- **Tier 2:** Homeless shelters and other homeless housing settings and dwelling places; congregate child care institutions, adult and child protective services; emergency shelters or safe houses for victims of domestic violence; corrections facilities, including jails and juvenile justice facilities; behavioral health institutions (including mental health institutions) and residential treatment centers; adult care homes, residents and staff in home-plus facilities not covered in Phase 1; any remaining senior living homes; home care givers (paid or unpaid), personal care aides
- **Tier 3:** All unvaccinated persons prioritized in previous phases; water and wastewater; the U.S. Postal Service; Department of Motor Vehicles; retail, warehouses and sales outlets; companies that supply critical services or materials for the COVID-19 response (e.g. personal protective equipment)

People in all phases of Phase 2 should continue to take an interest survey available at <https://www.jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine>. When doses become available, subsets of groups who completed the survey will receive an email with instructions on booking an appointment.

Health systems in Johnson County have begun to contact patients in their systems to gauge interest in receiving the vaccine. People in Tier 1 of Phase 2 should also reach out to their primary care physician and inquire about vaccination availability. Other partners will serve as vaccination locations for specific groups:

- Johnson County hospital systems, including AdventHealth, Menorah Medical Center, Overland Park Regional, Olathe Health, St. Luke's Hospital and others will provide vaccinations to people 65 and older.
- Children's Mercy will vaccinate K-12 school personnel (public and private) and childcare providers.
- Health Partnership Clinic will assist with Food and Agricultural workers.

Further instructions on booking appointments through these providers will be available on [jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine](https://www.jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine).

Those in Phase 1 who have not received a vaccine may still receive their first dose during Phase 2. Second doses have been reserved for those who have already received their first doses.

"It's vitally important that Johnson County receive protection from COVID-19," said Dr. Sanmi Areola, JCDHE director. "We are working quickly and doing everything we can to get the vaccine in arms. As soon as vaccine is received, clinics are scheduled, and doses are administered."

The goal is to reach population immunity, which is up to 90% of the population receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. At that point, widespread transmission will be reduced, and the disease eventually controlled.

JCDHE is working to develop a vaccine dashboard to make Johnson County vaccination data publicly available. In the meantime, a complete list of vaccine amounts received in Johnson County and who will/has received them is available at [jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine](https://www.jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine).

Johnson County Department of Technology and Innovation says residents should be cautious when providing personally identifiable information related to COVID-19 vaccines. The county is taking steps to protect vaccine recipients through the appointment process but encourages residents to ensure the information they are providing is shared with legitimate sources.

###