

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 14, 2021

Public Information Office

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COVID-19 Update

State Expands Vaccine to Ages 65 and Older, County Holds Clinics Friday & Saturday with Extended Hours

FAYETTEVILLE – North Carolina has expanded its coronavirus vaccine protocols by opening eligibility for the COVID-19 shots to individuals ages 65 and older and to all healthcare workers.

The Cumberland County Department of Public Health will begin offering the vaccine to people ages 65 and up and all healthcare workers at its clinics scheduled for **Friday**, **Jan. 15**, and **Saturday**, **Jan. 16**, at the Crown Complex from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m**. The vaccine will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the clinics on Friday and Saturday.

"We are doing a big push to get vaccine in the arms of as many of our elderly citizens and healthcare workers as possible in the next two weeks. We are going to increase staffing levels at our drive-thru clinic to create shorter lines and decrease wait times," said Health Director Dr. Jennifer Green.

The Health Department has scheduled clinics on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Crown Complex and will hold another special Saturday clinic on Jan. 23. Individuals should come prepared to wait by bringing food, water and any medications that may be scheduled. Visit the County's <u>vaccine website</u> for additional instructions.

Morning Appointment Slots Begin Jan. 19

The Health Department launched an appointment request process for morning slots starting Jan. 19. The appointment request form is posted on the County's COVID-19 Vaccine page at co.cumberland.nc.us/covid19vaccine.

Appointment slots each day will be from 9-11 a.m. and from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. After 1 p.m. each day, the clinics will provide vaccines on a first-come, first served basis. Traffic lanes will be set up in the Crown parking lot for the designated groups.

The form requests basic information about the individual seeking an appointment. If the person is eligible under the current vaccination phase, the Health Department will call the person to confirm eligibility and schedule an appointment slot to receive a vaccine. Individuals can expect to receive a call from the Health Department staff between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays to schedule an appointment slot. The department will attempt to call each individual two times.

Due to high call volumes, individuals will not be able to schedule an appointment by calling into the Health Department. If you need assistance filling out the appointment request form, call (910) 678-7657 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The call takers will only assist in filling out the request form. They are not the appointment schedulers.

Learn more about the COVID-19 Vaccination phases on the County's vaccination page at co.cumberland.nc.us/covid19vaccine or call 910-678-7657.

Find the latest information, visit the County's website at <u>co.cumberland.nc.us</u>. Information is also posted on the County's <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u> accounts.

