**VACCINE TOWNHALL JANUARY 14, 2021 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Q:** How is it decided which sector falls in which phase and tier?
**A:** Monterey County Health Department is following the phases and tiers outlined in California’s COVID-19 Vaccine Plan.

**Q:** Is there a difference between vaccines received and administered into arms?
**A:** Yes. Because the supply of COVID-19 is unreliable currently, vaccinating agencies must receive doses before they can schedule vaccine clinics to avoid confusing cancellations and rescheduling.

**Q:** Who is ordering vaccines for each community?
**A:** Vaccines are allocated on a county level by CDPH. Medical providers who serve particular communities can apply to CDPH to receive a portion of Monterey County’s allocation of COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q:** Does the County order all vaccine that it can?
**A:** Monterey County Health Department orders the maximum number for doses allocated by CDPH.

**Q:** Will the Health Department need to know how many individuals are in their industry in order to order the vaccines?
**A:** CDPH determines the number of doses Monterey County can receive each week based on CDPH’s estimates of the number of individuals in phases and tiers currently open for vaccination and the amount of vaccine available from the federal government.

**Q:** Are private health care offices being proactively contacted to schedule getting the vaccine? If not, do they contact the health department?
**A:** Monterey County has released multiple Health Alerts and Updates for providers regarding COVID-19 vaccine. If medical providers did not receive the Health Updates with the information, they can submit their practice’s information at: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qsBxyiig7EOMMAVrYO10FMw4msASlr5Ct5Ble66TX99URDFONIdOWFVOMVY3QTAzMVJMM1BZRFVPNC4u.

**Q:** Is there a plan to leverage other resources to support vaccinating our populations, such as nursing students? What efforts are being done to reach out to these type of folks?
**A:** Nursing students are involved in vaccination right now. There are partnerships with other entities that can vaccinate. For example, Visiting Nurses Association, the hospitals, and primary care providers. There is also an option for people to submit a Health Department volunteer application for those who have healthcare job experience.

February 13, 2021
Q: How will I know when it’s my turn to get a vaccine?
A: The County will push information out through the media, online and via county social media accounts. As the rollout continues, people with primary care physicians may hear directly from those offices when the vaccine is available to them.

Q: Will I be able to sign up for an appointment when it is my turn?
A: It’s possible that as the county moves through the tiers, people will be able to sign up for appointments through a website or by some other means.

In Phase 1b, people ages 65 and up may be able to make reservations by phone, if they do not use a computer or smartphone. Pay attention to the county’s website for updated information and watch for news reports on potential sign-ups.

Q: How long will it take for the people in each phase and tier to be vaccinated?
A: At this time, there is no way to gauge how quickly the county will move through the tiers. The amount of vaccine available to the county differs from week to week, making advance planning for clinics impossible, which in turn makes it impossible for the county to say just when people in subsequent tiers will be able to be vaccinated.

Q: Will I need to show some kind of proof that I am eligible for a certain tier?
A: In Phase 1a and 1b, the county is requiring people to bring a pay stub or some form of work-related ID to show they are health care or essential workers. People in eligible age groups will need to show a driver’s license or some other form of ID with a birthdate.

Medical privacy rules prohibit vaccine administrators from asking people about their medical conditions, so in the case of people with underlying conditions they will most likely be on their honor.

Q: Why is the county’s vaccination timeline not the same as the state’s?
A: Changes are happening very quickly at the national and state levels. Monterey County Health Department is following the state’s guidelines, but only after receiving an official communication from CDPH advising the county of the change. It’s possible that the state will announce a change ahead of sending a notice to county health officials. Getting through the different phases are dependent on the supply of vaccine. Clinics will not be scheduled until vaccine arrives; this avoids having to cancel appointments.

Q: My employer says that our profession is now cleared to receive vaccinations, but the county isn’t vaccinating us yet.
A: County officials wait for an official statement from the CDPH, and sometimes that statement comes after someone at the state has communicated with employers or trade associations.
Q: Where do essential workers, like grocery store employees and farmworkers, fall on the vaccination list?
A: After health care workers in Phase 1a are vaccinated, essential workers in the food and agriculture industry will be able to be vaccinated under Phase 1b, Tier 1 – although initially only those considered at highest risk of exposure will be vaccinated while vaccine supplies are limited. That means some workers in those industries will have to wait.

Q: What about teachers and child care workers?
A: The county is in talks with the Monterey County Office of Education to organize how vaccinations will occur throughout the various districts and schools. Those considered at greatest risk for exposure fall under Phase 1b, Tier 1.

Q: Will teachers be vaccinated ahead of schools reopening?
A: Monterey County Health Officer Edward Moreno said during a virtual town hall on Jan. 14 that the guidelines for reopening schools do not include vaccinations as a requirement.

Q: Where will vaccinations occur?
A: This depends on who is administering/receiving the vaccines. For example, pharmacists from Walgreens and CVS are visiting long-term care facilities, under a contract with the state of California. Recently, the Monterey Fire Department held clinics for other firefighters and paramedics at its main station in Monterey. Drive-through clinics have been taking place in a parking lot at CSU Monterey Bay and at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Other clinics have taken place at Natividad Medical Center or Mee Memorial Hospital. Primary care and urgent care clinics are also offering vaccinations for eligible groups.

As vaccinations spread out to more people, we’ll see clinics at other locations like senior centers and large employers, for example. Some of the stores for local large pharmacy chains are also now offering vaccinations following eligibility guidelines.

Q: Are there going to be enough workers to administer vaccines and run clinics?
A: The county and the state are working on finding more people who may administer vaccines, in addition to relying on nonprofit agencies and clinics that have traditionally administered flu shots. To add numbers, the state recently approved dentists to give vaccines at clinics. Monterey County has created a way for retired doctors and nurses to volunteer, with an electronic sign-up on the county’s COVID volunteer website: https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/human-resources/benefits/emergency-volunteers

Q: What will my vaccine cost?
A: The vaccine is provided at no cost to recipients, paid for by taxpayers through the federal government. The agency, physician or pharmacy administering the vaccine may charge someone an administration fee, which in turn may be covered by health insurance. For uninsured people, the entity giving the vaccine can get the fee reimbursed through a federal fund.
VACCINE SECOND DOSE QUESTIONS

Q: What happens if I miss or am late for the second dose of the series? If you miss your second dose appointment, you should reschedule as soon as possible.
A: Both doses are needed for full protection. A single dose conveys a lower degree of protection from the virus than two doses. There is no reason to schedule a third dose if the second is received late.

Q: Can I take my dose early if I have a scheduling conflict?
A: The CDC indicates that it is safe to administer vaccines up to four days early. Anything beyond that should be considered an error and reported to your healthcare provider or directly to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.

Q: What if I get infected with COVID-19 after the first dose of vaccine but before the second one? Will I need to wait and retake the first dose or just get the second?
A: There is no need to retake the first dose. Wait for 10 days after last symptoms and then take the second dose of vaccine on your previously scheduled date, or any time after the second dose date IF the second dose date falls before the isolation period has ended.

Q: Once individuals have received the 2nd dose, do they still need to quarantine for 10 days if exposed to a COVID positive case?
A: Yes. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build protection against the virus following vaccination. Also, while there is strong evidence that the vaccine protects most people against symptomatic COVID-19, we do not know for sure whether the vaccine prevents transmission of the virus. For these reasons, it is still very important for those who have received the vaccine to watch for symptoms and adhere to all quarantine protocols.