

Johnson County Emergency Operations Center Press Release 12/18/2020

COVID-19 Vaccinations on the way!

Wyoming has received initial doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in five counties. Wyoming Department of Health has allocated Moderna vaccine to Johnson County and other rural counties, due to the ability to direct ship the vaccine. COVID-19 vaccinations will be given in a tiered approach based on priority recommendations from the CDC. Phase 1a will begin with healthcare providers. Vaccination of long-term care and assisted living facility residents is being coordinated through a federal partnership with several national pharmacy chains, as well as with local public health offices. This effort will tentatively begin in early January. With limited vaccine availability and the need to vaccinate groups in Phase 1a, vaccine is not currently available for other groups or the general public. We do not have an exact timeframe for when we will move to the next steps, but do expect it will be months before the general public will be able to receive vaccines. As such, it is important to continue following our primary recommendations of wearing masks, social distancing, and staying home when ill. We hope to move through the phases quickly in order to get vaccine to the general population.

Johnson County Public Health will keep the public informed of when vaccine is available and the phases of their vaccine operations. We will not be maintaining a list in order to protect your public health information and to ensure the public we are focused on working through the priority groups instead of on a first come first serve basis. When we receive vaccine, our initial priority is vaccinating our healthcare workers. As the subsequent priorities are established and more vaccines are made available, we will move to the next priority groups. We will be advertising our vaccination status frequently with our local media outlets, JCPH Facebook page, Code Red (mass text alert) system, and on our county website at www.johnsoncountywyoming.org. Please do not hesitate to call us to check the status of our vaccination efforts or with any questions about the vaccine.

Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?

We understand there is a lot of information about the vaccine efficacy. Public Health encourages residents to research about the vaccine, and look to credible sources for that information.

American Academy of Family Physicians COVID-19 FAQ

Understanding and Explaining mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

For the most up to date numbers of COVID-19 cases, please visit <u>health.wyo.gov</u> and click on COVID-19.

For the most current information, please visit www.johnsoncountywyoming.org/covid-19.

There has been a COVID-19 response email set up for Johnson County: jcwycovid19eoc@gmail.com.

For further questions, contact the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center: 307-425-6560.