January 4, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN WALTON COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT LINE UPDATE

Vaccines are currently allocated to critical health care workers and seniors 65 and older

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DeFuniak Springs, Fla.— The Florida Department of Health in Walton County (DOH-Walton) has experienced an overload of the statewide phone systems. **The COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT LINE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO 850-892-8392.**

The vaccines are from Moderna and were given Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA. According to data released by the Food and Drug Administration, the vaccine made by Moderna is highly protective for adults and prevents severe cases of COVID-19.

The coronavirus immunizations for individuals ages 65 years and older will be provided at the Coastal Branch clinic at 361 Greenway Trail, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call the Walton County Covid Line at (850) 892-8392 beginning January 4th, 2021.

Vaccination times: 8 AM – 5 PM   Wednesday, January 6

8 AM – 5 PM   Friday, January 8

8 AM – 5 PM   Wednesday, January 13

8 AM – 5 PM   Friday, January 15

Further immunizations will be scheduled after these initial dates as vaccine supply allows. Persons who have had a severe allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine or to an injectable therapeutic may not receive the vaccine. There is no charge for vaccine administration.

Hospitals received their vaccines recently and continue to vaccinate their front-line staff. Long-term care staff and residents are receiving vaccines through Operation Warp Speed from Walgreens and CVS. As additional vaccine supplies become available and the State provides priority groups for vaccinating, DOH-Walton will follow and share those plans. For the most up to date information on COVID-19 vaccination plans in Florida, please visit https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/covid-19-vaccines-in-florida/. For a report of Walton County residents vaccinated against COVID-19 go to FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov.

"The COVID-19 vaccine is a monumental step toward getting this disease under control in Florida, but the department is still encouraging residents and visitors to take common sense

precautions to protect themselves and others from the spread of the virus" said Holly Holt, Health Officer and Administrator. "These include frequent hand washing, wearing face masks, maintaining six feet of social distancing, and staying home if you are feeling sick".

COVID-19 vaccination will make it substantially less likely that you'll get COVID-19. Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases, experts believe the vaccine will help keep you from getting seriously ill if you do get COVID-19. Vaccine trials are reporting high rates of effectiveness. The COVID-19 vaccination will be a safer way to help build protection. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you and it can have serious, life-threatening complications.

COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19. None of the COVID-19 vaccines use the live virus that causes COVID-19. The goal of each vaccine is to teach our immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. Immunity typically takes a few weeks to build.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccines visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html.

To schedule a COVID-19 **test**, please call 850-401-6453

About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.