



For Immediate Release
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JEFFERSON COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND CENTER UPDATE FOR JANUARY 27, 2021

Birmingham, AL— The Jefferson County Unified Command Center (JCUC) and its partner agencies continue to help provide information, goods and services to the people of Jefferson County throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response. Dr. Mark Wilson, Jefferson County Health Officer, and Jim Coker, Director of Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency serve as the co- leaders of the Unified Command Center.

Vaccination Reminder

In Jefferson County we are currently vaccinating people age 75 and older, people working in health care settings, and first responders with COVID-19 vaccines. We are continuing to follow the [Vaccine Allocation Plan](#) as set forth by the Alabama Department of Public Health and coordinating efforts with other vaccinating organizations in the county to assure access for all who are eligible.

People in Jefferson County who are seeking COVID-19 vaccination can follow these steps to get the process started:

1. If your own health care provider is offering the vaccine, it is recommended that you get it from them when it is offered. If not, you can use the Jefferson County Vaccine Call Center.
2. Visit the Jefferson County Vaccine Call Center online at <https://www.jeffcoema.org/> and click on the green button to self-register to receive information about obtaining the vaccine. If you need to speak to someone for assistance or information, you may call the Call Center at 205.858.2221 on weekdays between 8:00am and 5:00pm.
3. Wait for a notification by email, text or call, with instructions on how to schedule an appointment when your particular category is eligible, and a vaccine clinic is available for you to visit.
4. Use the instructions from the notification to schedule your appointment to receive your COVID-19 vaccination.

We understand this process is not ideal, but it is an effort to assure that everyone in Jefferson County who is eligible to receive vaccine has the opportunity get it. For the next several weeks, the demand for vaccine will far exceed the supply, so we ask for everyone's patience. People who are unsuccessful in making an appointment upon their first notification will receive additional notifications as more vaccine becomes available. Some people may find other opportunities to get vaccinated; they should take advantage of whatever opportunity they get first.

Please Offer Assistance

If you know someone age 75 or older who may need assistance in registering online for vaccine information as above, or scheduling an appointment online, please help them! It is OK to use your own email or phone number as a contact on their behalf. Your help could save their life!

Important: Immunity from Vaccine Takes Time

People who get either of the current vaccines need to remember that they will not get the full benefit of the vaccine until approximately two to four weeks after their second dose. Everyone is urged to continue the usual precautions – wearing of masks, social distancing, hand-washing, and limiting gatherings - after receiving the vaccine.

Message from ADPH about Vaccine Eligibility and Current CDC Recommendations

This message was released by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) on January 27, 2020: “At the final Operation Warp Speed briefing on January 12, 2021, spokespersons for HHS recommended that states expand age groups for vaccination to persons 65 and above. However, these changes have not been made in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for when vaccine supply is limited. Vaccine supply is limited and does not meet demand at this time for the current numbers of persons identified as healthcare workers, first responders, fire, police, and persons 75 and above. Current recommendations from CDC are based on those from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ACIP is an independent panel of medical and public health experts who provide vaccine guidance to CDC. The ACIP will be meeting today and additional information will be shared as it is made available.”

Alabama Department of Public Health, Medicaid Agency, Attorney General Issue Warning on Scams Claiming to Offer COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines

The Department of Public Health and the Alabama Medicaid Agency are receiving reports of citizens being contacted at their homes for the purpose of being offered COVID-19 vaccinations at home. In addition, individuals claiming to be employees of the Medicaid Agency are contacting recipients by phone or in person and offering free COVID-19 testing.

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris, Medicaid Commissioner Stephanie McGee Azar and Attorney General Steve Marshall warn that this is a scam and anyone who is contacted about an offer for free in-home COVID-19 testing or vaccinations should immediately end the contact.

The public is encouraged to report such calls to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-392-5658 or via email to ConstituentAffairs@AlabamaAG.gov.

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