



# Manitowoc County Health Department

*Mission: To Protect and Promote the Health of Manitowoc County in Partnership with our Community*

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Manitowoc County to Begin Vaccinating People with High-Risk Health Conditions**

The Manitowoc County Health Department will offer appointments next week to individuals with health conditions that put them at high-risk for severe COVID-19 disease. This is expected to be the last gateway criteria added before offering vaccines to the general public on May 1st.

High-risk health conditions as defined by the State include the following:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Diabetes mellitus type 1 or 2
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant, blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Liver disease
- Neurologic conditions, such as intellectual disabilities and dementia
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30-39 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Overweight (BMI of 25-29 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Severe Obesity (BMI 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more)
- Sickle cell disease
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)

If you do not have one of the conditions on this list, but your doctor tells you that you are at high-risk for COVID-19 we will allow you to schedule an appointment.

“We are very excited to begin vaccinating this next group of people,” reports Health Officer Stephanie Lambert. “Many high-risk individuals have stayed home since last March. This is an excellent opportunity for

<http://www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/departments/d-h/health-department/>

**“Better Choices, Better Health”**

them to gain protection against severe disease and thus soon be able to resume some degree of normalcy in their lives.”

While vaccine supply is significantly higher than in earlier months, demand is expected to be high. The Health Department continues to urge the public to practice patience as appointments become available. A list of local COVID-19 vaccine providers can be found on the Health Department website under the tab “COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments.”

Almost 30,000 vaccines have been administered in Manitowoc County thus far, with 23% of Manitowoc residents having received at least one shot. Nearly 70% of adults over 65 have been vaccinated. Manitowoc County will be administering 300 second doses next week and 500 first doses.