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“Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 2, 2021

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COVID-19 vaccine clinic planned for February 5th

The next community COVID-19 vaccine clinic offered by the Putnam County Health Department is scheduled for Friday, February 5th, and is by appointment only. The volunteers at the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center, coordinated by the Putnam County Office of Public Safety, have been busy calling individuals who are over the age of 75 and were already on the waiting list. Unfortunately, the health department received a very limited amount of vaccine this week, and all of the appointments were filled very quickly. Plans for additional clinics will be made as soon as the amount in the next shipment of vaccine is known.

“Our first two clinics, held January 20th and most recently on Saturday, January 30th, allowed for us to vaccinate nearly 1000 people in their upper 70’s and older, with Saturday’s numbers reaching over 600,” stated Kim Rieman, Health Commissioner of the Putnam County Health Department. “The clinics were very busy and all spots were filled with those anxious to receive their vaccine. We know there are many, many more who want the vaccine and we are providing clinics as quickly as we can after we receive our weekly shipment.” The health department is notified with the amount of vaccine in the next shipment and then immediately begins planning how to disperse the vaccine within the next week. The shipment for this week is much less than received previously, therefore the clinic will not be as busy.

The PCHD continues to rely on volunteers to help with the clinics. Ms. Rieman continued, “Once again, our many, many volunteers helped the last clinic run smoothly. These people gave of their time all day on Saturday, and we are so very grateful.”

Even though Governor Mike DeWine’s Vaccine Plan states that vaccine is now open to people age 70 and up, the Putnam County Health Department is still focusing on those age 75 and older. Ms. Rieman added, “We know there are many people who are age 70 and up ready to get the shot, however, we feel that we still need to focus on those 75 and older who are on the

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waiting list. We also want to give people who did not make it on the list when we stopped taking calls an opportunity to call for an appointment. However, as of right now, the appointment times for the next clinic are completely full and we must wait to learn how much we will receive next.” The limited number of vaccine doses available makes it impossible to provide the vaccine to everyone who wants it at this time.

Residents are encouraged to check with other resources for the vaccine. Some healthcare providers and some pharmacies, mostly the larger chain pharmacies, have started giving the vaccine. “In the meantime, we do appreciate everyone’s patience as we roll out the vaccine as quickly as we can,” stated Ms. Rieman. “We are also now working to provide the second dose of the vaccine to healthcare providers and EMS workers who received the vaccine in late December. Our public health nurses and volunteers are providing vaccine daily, so we are very, very busy.”

PLEASE NOTE: As of the publication date (2.2.21), the information is up-to-date, however, changes are made daily regarding the next clinic and when the Vaccine Call Line will be opened again for incoming calls. It is important to check Facebook and PCHD website at www.putnamhealth.com for continued updates.



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