



HO-CHUNK NATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2020

CONTACT: Kiana Beaudin, Ho-Chunk Nation Health Department Health Officer, 715-284-9851

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health has received confirmation that our application to be a vaccination site for our employees and community members has been completed. This is a significant step towards having vaccine available to administer. Today the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health received its initial doses of COVID-19 vaccine. The Department was notified that 400 doses would be shipped in the coming days to our facilities. Because the vaccine is being distributed from the Federal government specific processes and documentation requirements needed to be prepared and submitted for our application approval. The Department of Health staff have been completing trainings to prepare for COVID-19 vaccine and the department has staged the POD (point of dispensing) sites at both the House of Wellness and District 1 Community building. The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health will be following the recommendations of both CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) regarding who will be eligible for vaccine. The Department has identified the following tiers of individuals to receive the vaccine:

Tier 1A:

- Healthcare Workers
- Long Term Care Residents

Tier 1B:

- Frontline Essential Employees
- Elite Elders
- Eminent Speakers

Tier 1C:

- Elders
- Those with underlying health conditions (examples: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, heart conditions, immuno-compromised, obesity, sickle cell disease, type 2

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diabetes) See full list at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

- Essential Employees

Tier 2A:

- Essential Casino Employees

Tier 2B:

- General Community Members

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health has confirmed that the first allocation of COVID-19 vaccine is Moderna. This vaccine has received a EUA (emergency use authorization) for use in people 18 years and older. The Department of Health will be using the guidance and recommendations of ACIP and CDC for administration of the vaccine.

Once the Department of Health has received all of the needed information for administration of vaccine the Department of Health Vaccination Team will reach out to the tier 1A group to notify them of the date, time, and location of vaccine administration options. We do anticipate that our POD sites will be activated next week to dispense the vaccine.

The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health will continue to keep leadership, community members, and employees updated as new information is available. Please remember to continue to stay safe by wearing a mask while outside your home, social distance when you must go out in public, avoid large gatherings of people, and routinely wash your hands. Take care of one another.