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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **Inclement Weather causes delay in weekly shipment of COVID-19 vaccines One clinic canceled, new appointments and expansion into Phase 1B population on hold**

Bloomington, IL--Due to inclement weather conditions, the weekly shipment of COVID-19 vaccines to the McLean County Health Department (MCHD) is delayed.

#### **McLean County Health Department cancels Friday's vaccine clinic**

The vaccine clinic scheduled for Friday, February 19 at Grossinger Motors Arena has been canceled. This clinic was for residents receiving a second vaccine. MCHD will be rescheduling this clinic as soon as we receive the vaccine doses.

Those of you who were scheduled for this second-dose clinic Friday will be contacted to reschedule an appointment. If you scheduled your first-dose appointment via email, you will be contacted via that same email. If your first-dose appointment was scheduled using our call center, you will be contacted via our call center.

MCHD and Carle BroMenn Medical Center have four second-dose clinics scheduled for next week. Currently none of those have been canceled. However, if any of those clinics need to be canceled, scheduled participants will be notified. Any changes in scheduling will be announced on the MCHD website and Facebook page, as well as through the local media.

#### **New COVID-19 vaccine appointments will not open until further notice**

The Illinois Department of Public Health notified us that weekly shipments of the vaccine for the next few weeks will be primarily for second doses. We expect to receive only 500 first doses of the vaccine for the whole county next week. At this time, we are not expecting additional first-dose vaccines. As a result, MCHD will not be posting new first-dose appointments for registration (online or via the call center) today for next week.

### **Expansion into wider Phase 1B population on hold until further notice**

Over 50,000 residents are currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1A and Phase 1B of the statewide mass vaccination plan. On February 10<sup>th</sup>, Governor Pritzker announced that counties in Illinois may expand the vaccine eligibility criteria locally on February 25<sup>th</sup> to include individuals 16-64 with comorbidities and certain underlying health conditions if they have made significant progress through the original Phase 1A and 1B populations.

We have made progress in McLean County, with over 35% of eligible individuals in Phase 1A and Phase 1B receiving at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and over 5,000 people fully vaccinated. However, McLean County is not receiving enough doses of the vaccine at this time to allow the expansion of Phase 1B eligibility on February 25<sup>th</sup>, which includes another estimated 40,000+ people.

Our goal remains to vaccinate as many people as quickly and safely as possible. The limited supply of vaccine creates a challenge. McLean County will begin scheduling appointments for those who meet expanded Phase 1B eligibility only when we have made significant progress through the current Phase 1A and Phase 1B groups.

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