

District Health Department No. 4

For Immediate Release

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Some Food and Ag Workers Now Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine, but DHD4 Remains Focused on Pre-Registration List

District Health Department No. 4 recognizes the importance of the state's food and agriculture sector, from feeding Michiganders to the health of the economy, and is eager to offer eligible essential workers the COVID-19 vaccine soon. Within the sector, workers at highest risk are those who must work in close proximity to many other people for extended periods of time. As of March 1, 2021, these workers are eligible to pre-register for COVID-19 vaccination.

Employers within the food processing and agriculture industry should identify their frontline essential workers within the categories below.

- **Food Processing Workers** - Includes meat processing and meatpacking facilities; processing of fruit and vegetables; dairy processing; animal feed manufacturing; food and animal feed ingredient manufacturing; beverage production; and the production of food packaging.
- **Agricultural Workers – Migrant & Seasonal Farm Workers** involved in raising, cultivating, harvesting, packing, storing, and distributing agricultural commodities, and who are by the nature of their work in close proximity and contact with other people.

DHD4 employers who feel that their organization falls into one of the eligible groups for vaccination should e-mail DHD4 at covidvaccine@dhd4.org and include "Food Processing and Ag Workers" in the subject line. Please include the name of the organization, a contact persons name and phone number, as well as a list of eligible employees. DHD4 will reach out to determine eligibility and next steps.

Please, know, due to limited vaccine availability, DHD4 will continue to prioritize current eligible individuals, including those 65 years of age and older, health care workers, first responders, police officers, jail and prison staff, pre-K through 12 teachers and workers in childcare centers and protective services. These individuals should pre-register at www.dhd4.org. If you need help pre-registering, call the Region 9 Area Agency on Aging at 989-358-4899.

DHD4 will continue to administer 75% of DHD4's weekly vaccine supply to individuals 65 years and older and 25% to all other eligible workers.

"It is a positive thing to see that we are moving in the right direction. Opening vaccine eligibility to our food processing and agricultural workers allows us to continue to make progress in our goal of vaccinating 70% of our population ASAP, but we recognize we still have a significant number of residents 65 years and older who still need vaccine," states DHD4 Health Officer Denise Bryan, MPA. "We greatly appreciate the patience of our residents as we work to schedule and vaccinate residents as quickly as possible."

If you are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine and still in need of an appointment, visit your local Meijer, Rite Aid, or Walgreens website. If you get an appointment at one of these other clinics, please email covid19@dhd4.org so we can take your name off our pre-registration list.

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