



**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nate Alger, County Administrator

Since receipt of our first allotment of vaccine on December 18th, Grand Traverse County has been vaccinating those that the State of Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services has prioritized to be vaccinated first. This group of individuals are classified as "Phase 1A". We are currently continuing to vaccinate all of those included in Phase 1A and are planning for the rollout of Phase 1B vaccine clinics. We anticipate completing the 1A group and starting the 1B group in the next few weeks. **All clinics are dependent on vaccine supply availability.

On January 6, 2021 Governor Whitmer held a press conference during which she stated that counties may begin permitting the vaccination of community members in the vaccination category defined as "Phase 1B". This group includes anyone 65 and over, school and childcare staff, frontline county, state and federal responders, and staff in jails, prisons and shelters. Since that announcement, Grand Traverse County has been inundated with inquiries about how to register for a vaccine. At this time, Grand Traverse County does not have sufficient quantities of the COVID-19 vaccination to begin vaccinating those categorized as "Phase 1B", but we are working closely with MDHHS to ensure the quantity of vaccine supply necessary for our Phase 1B clinic needs. The vaccine supply should be arriving on a weekly rolling schedule.

Since March 13, 2020 Grand Traverse County and the entire community has worked together to minimize the impact of the Coronavirus on our community. We are currently working with our public and private partners to roll out COVID-19 vaccination scheduling information for Phase 1B and we expect that information will be available next week. Vaccinations for Phase 1B will be directly related to the quantity of vaccines supplied to us and we are hopeful that those quantities will substantially increase over time.

We request that you refrain from contacting the Health Department at this time to inquire about how to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination. The Health Department staff will not be able to provide additional information at this time. When the scheduling system is complete information will be widely available about how to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination.



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