



## Sign Up for the COVID-19 Vaccine!

The COVID-19 Vaccine has arrived in the Prairie County Community. We will be vaccinating paid and unpaid healthcare workers, EMS, law enforcement, and then will move quickly into vaccinating the long-term care residents at Prairie Community Hospital. This will begin the week of December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We will then quickly move into the next phase and will use a tiered approach to this, based on CDC guidelines of at-risk population groups. There is a limited number of doses with this first shipment of vaccine.

Due to the fragile nature of the vaccine, we will not be able to simply have a mass immunization clinic, like we have done for the flu shot, and whoever shows up is who we vaccinate. Priority will be given based on CDC guidelines of at-risk population groups, and we will do small group immunization time blocks. Be prepared for your vaccination appointment to take approximately 1 hour.

The Moderna vaccine is the one that is being offered by the Prairie County Public Health Department. This vaccine is a two-dose series to provide full protection. Once the initial dose is given, the second dose is given 4 weeks later. It takes one to two weeks after the second dose to establish proper immunity. Therefore you are looking at 6 weeks before full immunity takes effect.

We are asking those interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine to call the Prairie County Health Department Nurse, Tylene Eaton, at 406-852-0622 **OR** the Prairie County Clinic at 406-635-5863 to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine. Only Prairie County residents at this time. **Please give first and last name, age, birthdate, address, and phone number of the potential recipient.** Please let us know which tier group you fit into:

\_\_\_ 65 years old and older with or without chronic health conditions (eg. COPD, asthma, heart conditions, high BP, diabetes)

\_\_\_ Less than 65 years old *with* chronic health conditions

\_\_\_ Essential workers (eg. Grocery store worker, school staff, postal workers, bank employees, etc)

\_\_\_ 18 to 64 years old with no chronic health conditions

Once we obtain this information, you will be notified at a later time, of a date and time that will be offered for your vaccine group block appointment. This information will not be available upon sign-up, so please be patient as we get this coordinated. The goal is to have as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible to gain herd immunity.

The COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary, but please keep in mind that the more people that get vaccinated, the less severe illness will be experienced, which means less hospitalizations, and less death. It also gets our community closer to our normal life and family functions.

Thank you for your consideration, time and patience as we get this vaccine underway in our community.

Sincerely,

*Tylene J. Eaton, RN*

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