



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT PREPARES FOR PUBLIC COVID-19 VACCINATIONS**

*Mass Vaccine Eligibility Expected Next Spring to Summer*

**[GREENCASTLE, IN]** – The Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) is pleased to announce the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines in Indiana! While designated hospitals across Indiana have begun vaccinating front-line healthcare workers, PCHD, in conjunction with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), has activated a long-prepared plan to provide these upcoming vaccines to the public at-large.

While the PCHD vaccination plan has been in place for many years, the department has spent the last several months refining and perfecting the plan specifically to COVID-19 vaccines. The Indiana Department of Health will provide vaccines to PCHD, who will then provide the vaccines to the public directly. A limited supply will be initially available, and PCHD will continue to follow recommendations from the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and IDOH on vaccination eligibility.

Upon becoming eligible for vaccination, patients will schedule their appointment online. Vaccinations will be completed in the office of the Putnam County Health Department, located at 1542 South Bloomington Street, Suite 1500 in Greencastle. Anyone receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will be required to be monitored for a minimum of 15 minutes after vaccination. Two vaccines are currently approved for emergency use – one from Pfizer and BioNTech and the second from Moderna – and require a second dose for full efficacy. As with any vaccine, there is always a possibility it can produce side effects. Those concerned if they should or should not receive the vaccination should consult their primary care physician.

*“Continue to wear your masks and practice social distancing until the vaccine is available to the general public and everyone has received their second dose,”* said Dr. Robert A. Heavin, Public Health Officer. *“I encourage everyone to get their vaccines as soon as they are eligible so we can return to the normal we all miss so much.”*

Details are currently limited about exact timelines and on who and when everyone will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Preliminary expectations are that everyone who wants a vaccine will be able to receive one next Spring or early Summer. The Putnam County Health Department will continue to provide more information as it becomes available. These details can be found at [www.putnamhealthindiana.org](http://www.putnamhealthindiana.org). Additional vaccine information can be found at: [www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/)

As a reminder, the Health Department sponsored COVID-19 drive-through testing site located at the Putnam County Hospital and will begin being open a sixth day starting January 4<sup>th</sup>. To schedule your COVID-19 test, visit: <https://scheduling.coronavirus.in.gov/Home/LocationSelection>

*The intent of the Putnam County Health Department is to prevent, promote, and protect the health, safety, and vital records for the people of Putnam County by providing various health and wellness screening services, educational programs, enforcing public health laws, and collecting and accurately recording all vital events occurring in Putnam County.*

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