



Public Information Release

Drive-Through Vaccine Clinic to Close

May 25, 2021

After more than four months of drive-through vaccine clinics in the snow, rain, wind, and now the heat, Madison County Public Health will suspend vaccination operations at The Ohio State University's Molly Caren Agricultural Center following their clinic on Thursday this week. Staff and volunteers administered nearly 20,000 COVID-19 vaccines at 34 drive-through clinics since January. According to Health Commissioner Chris Cook, dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers worked tirelessly to make this happen. "What we accomplished over the last four months has been unprecedented to say the least. I am beyond proud of and thankful for my staff, our selfless volunteers, the Molly Caren staff, and the response from our residents," he says.

Madison County Public Health (MCPH) has been by far the largest vaccinator in the county since vaccine became available around the first of the year. Several local pharmacies have been administering vaccine in limited quantities but no other healthcare facilities in the county have provided vaccine to the public. Cook says his decision to provide a drive-through, no-appointment clinic was the right one to make. "Putting large numbers of people indoors to administer vaccine was very risky. We knew many people would be hesitant to go indoors for traditional vaccine clinics," he noted. Cook says many people would not have been able to get vaccinated any other way. "We have people with physical limitations, children with special needs, and parents with a carload of young kids. We served people well." MCPH received over 1,700 customer satisfaction survey results over the last few months. Cook reported that patients rated them 4.8 or higher out of 5 on every satisfaction measure.

MCPH has carried a heavy load since the vaccine campaign began. At the height of demand for vaccine, MCPH vaccinated 350 people per hour through the drive-through including a record 1,100 people during a 3-hour Saturday clinic. Even at the busiest clinic wait times averaged only one hour. Word spread to the surrounding areas that Madison County's clinic was extremely efficient. More than half of the people vaccinated at three clinics in March were not Madison County residents. Currently 39% of Madison County residents have been vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This number lags behind the state average of 45%.

Madison County remains one of seventeen counties in the state that is still red on the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. Cook knows that there is still a great deal of work ahead. "I'm proud of what we've accomplished but we aren't done. We still have a lot of people to vaccinate if we want to keep our county safe," he says. Madison County Public Health, along with several local pharmacies, will continue to administer COVID-19 vaccine as long as there is demand. MCPH will offer vaccine appointments at their office in London three days per week and will have evening hours through the month of June. They can also vaccinate the homebound and hold special clinics for groups upon request. All vaccines, including Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson, are readily available. While Health Commissioner Cook wants everyone to get vaccinated, he does highlight one specific group. "One out of every four new cases of COVID-19 in Madison is in the 0-19 age group right now. We can vaccinate everyone down to age 12. I hope parents bring their kids in to get vaccinated this summer."

Residents can get a free COVID-19 vaccine at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center this Thursday from 3:30pm to 6:30pm or book an appointment next week for an office-based clinic. Visit covidvaccine.madisonph.org to register and for additional details.

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