



Newman Regional Health
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 2020

Newman Regional Health Receives First Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine

(Emporia, KS) — Newman Regional Health announces receipt of 160 doses in their first allocation of the COVID-19 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine which was delivered to the facility this afternoon, just 5 days after the Food and Drug Administration approved Emergency Use Authorization of the vaccine.

The received doses arrived at refrigerator temperature, allowing for an expedited delivery to hospitals. Larger facilities receiving a minimum of 975 doses require ultra-cold packaging and storage. According to COVID-19 vaccine administration protocols, the thawed vaccine is required to be administered within 120 hours or 5 days from the time it is removed from ultra-cold storage temperature. Newman Regional Health employees are scheduled to begin receiving vaccinations as early as Thursday, December 17, at 7:00am with appointments continuing into Friday, December 18.

The first vaccine allocation has been mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be administered to front line hospital workers only. As a result, Newman Regional Health employees have been divided into priority groupings dependent on the amount of direct care they provide to COVID-19 patients as well as those who are at high occupational risk for exposure to COVID-19. Further guidance advises that anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 wait 90 days before receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

Throughout the past couple of weeks, Newman Regional Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Committee has worked diligently to plan for this moment. At the time of their appointment, employees will present for their vaccination where they will be greeted with a handout inclusive of COVID-19 vaccine education and asked to complete a vaccine consent form. Their next step will involve a registration process where they will also receive a reminder card for their 2nd vaccine dose in 21 days. Lastly, they'll proceed to get the vaccine and then be monitored for 15 minutes. From start to finish, the entire vaccination process is likely to take someone approximately 20 minutes.

"I am thankful for the work completed the past several days in preparing for this monumental moment," said Cathy Pimple, Chief Administrative Officer at Newman Regional Health. "A motto we have been using with our Vaccine Committee during this time of preparedness and planning is, 'This is a time to pause, take a picture, and get back to work.' Our organization and



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our community deserves to celebrate this news as we are given yet another tool, our strongest tool, to aid in the fight against this pandemic.”

Newman Regional Health expects to receive additional vaccine doses next week, as determined by the state of Kansas’ COVID-19 Vaccination Plan.

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About Newman Regional Health: Newman Regional Health is a not-for-profit 25-bed Critical Access Hospital owned by the citizens of Lyon County, Kansas. Recognized as a Level 4 Trauma Center, Newman Regional Health provides inpatient acute and medical rehabilitation services along with a full range of emergency and outpatient care to patients of all ages in Lyon County and surrounding areas in East Central Kansas. Newman Regional Health offers 24/7 care with a newly renovated, state-of-the-art 19-bed emergency room and 10-bed Clinical Decision Unit. With a mission to improve health in the community by providing high quality care and a vision to be a valued, trusted partner and regional provider of exemplary services, Newman Regional Health receives recognition as a top Critical Access Hospital each year.