



Newman Regional Health
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Newman Regional Health Announces COVID-19 Vaccination Plans

(Emporia, KS) — Newman Regional Health announces that they expect to receive an allocation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in the first distribution to Kansas hospitals this week. The scheduled delivery is dedicated to hospital workers only.

Newman Regional Health will be providing the vaccine in a transitional, phased approach as guided by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Kansas COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. The state of Kansas is expected to receive approximately 24,000 doses in the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine with plans to distribute to pre-positioned locations throughout the state. Additional vaccine is planned to rapidly become available in the weeks after with close to 150,000 doses anticipated by the end of December. Initial vaccine distribution, as guided by the CDC's recommendations, is intended for healthcare workers and long-term care facilities.

Due to the uncertainty of quantity distributed to Kansas hospitals, Newman Regional Health employees have been divided into prioritized 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.

"The approach is much different in comparison to annual employee influenza vaccination due to storage, preparation, and expiration as well as it requires two doses at a specific timing interval," says Cathy Pimple, Chief Administrative Officer. "Currently, we are working closely with our Department Directors who are responsible for documenting which of our employees are interested in receiving the vaccine. This information will be used by the Vaccine Committee to determine distribution based on published guidance and volume received. We can then begin registering and scheduling appointments for employee vaccinations."

The Pfizer vaccine received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday, December 11, and requires ultra-cold storage which Newman Regional Health has prepared and planned for in anticipation of delivery. Moderna's vaccine is anticipating EUA on December 17 but does not require ultra-cold storage. Both vaccinations are known as 2-dose vaccines. This means that a second vaccination is required 21 to 28 days after administration of the first dose.



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“At this time, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has gone through the same process and testing required of all other vaccines,” said Ashley Edwards, Director of Pharmacy at Newman Regional Health. “Vaccines have to meet all requirements set by the FDA for approval. Over 43,000 individuals participated in clinical trials which proved to be more than 95% effective. Our team has spent many hours in planning and preparation and we are excited to receive our first shipment of Pfizer vaccine so we can begin vaccinating our healthcare team members.”

For more information and to stay up-to-date about the COVID-19 vaccine in Kansas, visit <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/284/COVID-19-Vaccine>.

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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.