



JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health
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NEWS

FOR RELEASE: Immediately (2/17/21)

For more information contact: 618-684-3143

EXPANSION OF COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IN JACKSON COUNTY

As announced by Governor Pritzker, Jackson County Health Department will be receiving support from the Illinois National Guard (ILNG) to dramatically expand COVID-19 vaccinations. Starting Friday, February 19, JCHD will begin operating two mass vaccination locations, six days a week, from 9am-8pm. Additional vaccine and other support will be provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health. These locations will be able to vaccinate any Illinois resident who is currently eligible for vaccination in Phase 1a or 1b of the State mass vaccination plan.

Those currently eligible to be vaccinated include:

Phase 1a – healthcare workers; long term care residents.

Phase 1b – individuals age 65 and older; “frontline” essential workers (does not include all essential workers);

Starting Feb 25, those age 16-64 with certain underlying health conditions will become eligible.

The two mass vaccination locations in Jackson County are as follows:

- Banterra Center (formerly known as SIU Arena) at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (enter west lobby off Douglas Drive, park in Lot 52);
- Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave (enter from parking lot on west side).

Jackson County Health Department expresses its sincere gratitude to our valued local partners which help enable these expanded efforts. These partners include Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, City of Carbondale, Southern Illinois Healthcare, SIU Family Medicine, Jackson County Medical Reserve Corps, and Shawnee Preparedness & Response Coalition.

Jackson County Board Chairman Keith Larkin had the following comments on this undertaking: “This is a great opportunity for Jackson County and the region. I have no doubt that the competency and professionalism the JCHD has shown throughout the pandemic played a large part in the decision to place these vaccination sites here. This is a game changer in the fight against COVID-19 in Southern Illinois and I hope people take advantage of it.”

Carbondale Mayor Mike Henry had this to say about the efforts: “It is an honor for the City of Carbondale to assist the State of Illinois, Illinois National Guard, and Jackson County Health Department in expanding COVID-19 vaccinations. The teamwork it took to make this happen was inspiring to see, and we feel privileged to provide our residents with an easily accessible vaccination clinic location.”

“SIU is pleased to continue to host the Jackson County Health Department’s vaccine clinic at the Banterra Center as a way for the university to serve our region,” said SIU Chancellor Austin A. Lane. “We are delighted the governor and our public health leaders are able to create more opportunities for people in southern Illinois to receive these critical vaccines.”

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Both sites are vaccinating individuals indoors, with masks and social distancing required. All vaccinations require an appointment; no walk-ins allowed. Appointments can be made by visiting the new online appointment portal link at www.jchdonline.org. Additional dates will be posted soon. Those not able to use the online portal should call their local health department for assistance in making an appointment. Handicap parking is available, as well as assistance for those with mobility concerns.

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