



**Lake View COVID-19 Second Dose Update
February 9, 2021**

People who have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine through the Lake County pop up vaccine clinics, as well as through other Phase 1a clinics, will be contacted directly for their second doses. We chose not to schedule all of the second dose dates and times at the first appointment due to uncertainty about future vaccine supply and/or delivery dates. Lake View Hospital and Lake County Public Health have been assured by the Department of Health that we will receive second doses of both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to support the administration of second doses in Lake County. We decided it would be better to reach out to people to schedule these second dose appointments once we were able to confirm that we had enough vaccine supply to support it each week. We are working to adhere to recommended vaccine dosing intervals for both vaccines. We have been using this process for second doses over the past couple weeks and it has been working well. The other challenge that we have been working through is how to best coordinate first and second dose appointments when our weekly allocation and delivery of new first dose vaccine is inconsistent and unpredictable. We have to be able to quickly set up and staff a pop up clinic when we receive vaccine, and administer 90% of the vaccine within 72 hours to meet specific requirements set by the state. This situation should improve significantly next week as we move away from the current lottery system for vaccine allocation. Please let us know if you have any additional questions related to second doses, and we will be happy to try to answer them with the information that we have available to us at this time.



Lake View COVID-19 Vaccine Update
February 5, 2021

We have been sharing a lot of important updates over the past number of weeks, and the information from the federal and state government being shared with Lake View continues to evolve by the hour some days. We will keep doing our very best to share relevant information in a timely manner with you, and to answer your questions as best we can. Here are the most common questions received over the past week or two.

Question: Why do you require people to call and listen to the new Lake County COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline (218-834-8434) instead of just providing the phone number and/or online link for registering for the pop-up clinics when vaccine is available?

Answer: Lake View worked closely with Lake County Public Health to establish the new hotline to provide a centralized source of up-to-date information on COVID-19 vaccine to all Lake County residents and Lake View patients. The hotline was designed to meet both the short and long-term needs of Lake County, and Lake View's patients. Our goal was to avoid having multiple locations where information on the COVID-19 vaccine was being shared to avoid confusion, frustration, and risk of outdated information. As the supply of vaccine increases, we will have the opportunity to add additional phone numbers and/or links on the COVID-19 hotline to support increased vaccination activity.

Question: Why do the appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine pop-up clinics for people age 65 years of age and older fill up so quickly?

Answer: We continue to expect the pop-up clinics to fill up very quickly because the supply of vaccine is very limited. Lake County is only receiving a limited supply of vaccine each week, and this supply is inconsistent and unpredictable. Due to the very limited supply, we are only able to offer vaccine to the public in the "10s of doses", and not in the "100s" of doses. The current allocation model being utilized by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is different for large versus mid to small-sized hospitals and health systems. The top ten largest health systems in Minnesota are receiving weekly allocations of COVID-19 vaccine, and the mid to small-sized hospitals and health systems are put into a weekly lottery for vaccine allocation. Under this current model, Lake View may or may not win the lottery from week to week. This makes it impossible to plan for and schedule regular vaccine clinics for our county. Rural hospital leaders from across the state are working with our Minnesota Hospital Association and MDH to find an alternative way to fairly and equitably allocate vaccine across the state.

Question: When is the next COVID-19 vaccine pop-up clinic in Lake County, and how often will these be scheduled in the future?

Answer: We are unable to schedule regular pop-up vaccine clinics each week because some weeks we may not receive any vaccine to administer. The future supply is unpredictable and unknown to us, and the process for weekly allocation by MDH is evolving week by week. If we are awarded vaccine for Lake County through the lottery, we will schedule a pop-up clinic and administer that vaccine very quickly. We have built a solid infrastructure, comprehensive processes, and a staffing model to run a clinic for 15 doses of vaccine, or for 150+ doses of vaccine per day if we have it. We just need a supply of vaccine to schedule additional pop-up clinics. Please call the Lake County COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at (218) 834-8434 for daily updates. The hotline is updated daily, Monday through Friday.

Question: Why are you only vaccinating people age 65 years of age and older and education staff in Lake County at this time? What about people under age 65 with medical conditions, or other essential workers like grocery store workers, bus drivers, etc.?

Answer: Lake View and Lake County Public Health are working collaboratively to effectively and efficiently roll out COVID-19 vaccine in Lake County under specific guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health. We recently finished up the majority of vaccination in Phase 1a, and are now working on the next groups outlined by MDH. We do not have the ability to work outside of this specific guidance, and doing so could put future allocations of COVID-19 vaccine in jeopardy for all of Lake County. Lake View recently received very specific timeframes from the state for administering our weekly inventory of vaccine when we receive it to avoid reallocation of potential future vaccine inventory to other counties. When we receive more vaccine in the future, we will quickly schedule a pop-up clinic, communicate the phone and online registration information on the Lake County COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline, and administer that vaccine.

Question: When a pop-up vaccine clinic opens up for registration, why do you offer both phone and online registration options?

Answer: Lake View and Lake County Public Health want to ensure a fair and equitable opportunity for all Lake County residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We offer both a phone registration option and an online registration option. The phone option is offered so that people who do not have a computer and/or internet access can still try to get a vaccine appointment. If reserved appointments under one option fill up (phone or online), appointments under the other option may or may not still be available. We have separate appointments reserved for both options to ensure fairness.

Question: When will Lake View patients be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine during an appointment for general medical care?

Answer: We do not know the answer to this. As soon as we begin receiving an adequate supply of vaccine, our goal is to begin offering vaccine to our patients during or after a routine medical visit in our hospital or clinic. Vaccine is being allocated across the state by the Minnesota Department of Health through various distribution channels, and it appears more and more vaccine is going to these community vaccine sites across the state. We will update you as soon as we know more.

Question: If I cannot get an appointment through the Lake County COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline process due to very limited supply and extremely high demand, what other options do I have?

Answer: There are a number of other options to try, but there are no guarantees for getting the vaccine easily. Both health systems in Duluth have options for requesting an appointment for getting a COVID-19 vaccine. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has set-up pilot vaccination sites across the state, and the closest one to Lake County is located in Mountain Iron, MN. At the time of this update, MDH was working on a community vaccination site for Duluth for select groups of people. Specific details were not shared with hospitals or health systems, so we recommend that you check the MDH website for more details.

We will keep advocating for additional vaccine allocation for Lake County, and we will keep updating you with information as soon as it is available. Please let us know if there are other specific questions that you would like answered.

Greg Ruberg, President/CEO
Lake View Hospital & Medical Clinics