

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: January 5, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"January is National Radon Action Month"

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department is encouraging residents to test the radon level in their home. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in most soil. As radon travels through the soil, it can easily move through small spaces in a foundation and enter a building, where it becomes trapped and accumulates in the air.

Radon has no taste, smell, or color. Testing is the only way to find out if there is a dangerous level of radon in your home. The best time to test for radon is during cold weather when windows and doors are closed.

Most radon exposures occur in the home. When people breathe in radon, it damages the lungs, which can cause lung cancer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking. Radon can be found throughout Illinois and levels can vary from one home to another, even in the same neighborhood. It's estimated more than 1,100 people in Illinois develop radon-related lung cancer each year according to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established the radon action level at 4 picocuries per liter of air (4 pCi/L). At or above this level, it is recommended that corrective measures be taken to reduce indoor radon levels. Radon mitigation is the only effective way to reduce levels and decrease the risk of lung cancer. The most common radon reduction system involves the installation of a vent pipe and fan, which draws air from underneath a building and displaces it outside. The cost of a system varies depending on the reduction method chosen and building size. Radon is a preventable health threat through testing and mitigation.

According to the IEMA, approximately one in two homes tested in Illinois (45 percent of homes) have radon at or above the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L. In addition, the average Illinois indoor air radon concentration is 5.1 pCi/L. "With the presence of radon in this geographic area, we encourage residents to take advantage of this opportunity and test their homes for radon," said Chris Pozzi, Director of Environmental Health at LaSalle County Health

Department. Homeowners can test their homes with a simple kit. Testing is easy and convenient, taking 3-7 days. Tests should be done on the lowest level of the home that is frequently occupied. Tests should not be done in kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, or utility rooms.

Since 2019, LaSalle County Health Department has given out 121 test kits. Sixty-seven of those test kits have been submitted for analysis, for a 55% usage rate. Fifty-seven have produced valid results, with 19 having a result above 4.0 pCi/L. The average result in LaSalle County has been 4.52 pCi/L. Testing homes for elevated levels of radon is simple and inexpensive. And, if discovered, a radon problem can be fixed with a mitigation system.

LaSalle County Health Department, through a grant from the IEMA, has free radon test kits available to residents of LaSalle County. Test kits can be picked up at the health department during regular business hours (Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 717 E. Etna Road in Ottawa. A staff member will assist you with the instructions on using the test kit, as well as provide information regarding radon, radon measurement, and radon mitigation. Additionally, should your radon test results show a high level of radon in your home, the health department can provide you with a list of licensed radon measurement professionals and licensed radon mitigation professionals for follow-up. Call the LaSalle County Health Department at (815) 433-3366, for more information on radon test kits.

Additional Resources:

Visit <https://www.radon.com/instructions/> to view a testing kit instructional video.

Visit the link below to see the estimated radon risk for each county on this interactive map.

<https://www.epa.gov/radon/find-information-about-local-radon-zones-and-state-contact-information#radonmap>

For additional information, please visit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/iema/NRS/Radon/Pages/default.aspx>

[https://www.epa.gov/radon.](https://www.epa.gov/radon)

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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: January 7, 2021

To: All Media

From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

Contact: Jenny Barrie, LaSalle County Health Department
Leslie Dougherty, LaSalle County Health Department
JoEllyn Gahan, OSF St. Elizabeth - OSF St. Paul – OSF Center for Health,
Community Relations Coordinator
Joan Fernandez, St Margaret's Health - Peru, Community Relations and Marketing Director

Phone: (815) 433-3366 LaSalle County Health Department
(815) 539-1659 OSF St. Paul Mendota
(815) 780-4618 St. Margaret's Health - Peru

For Immediate Release

"The LaSalle County Health Department Collaborates with Local Hospitals to Distribute the Second Shipment of Pfizer Vaccine"

The LaSalle County Health Department, in coordination with the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office received and delivered their second shipment of Pfizer vaccine to all three hospitals in the county on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Hospitals will begin providing the second dose of Pfizer vaccine to their front-line healthcare workers who received their first dose in mid-December. "The partnership with our local hospitals has been instrumental in ensuring efficient and safe distribution of the vaccine to our county's healthcare workers in this initial phase of vaccine distribution, known as Phase 1a," said Julie Kerestes, Public Health Administrator of LaSalle County Health Department.

Hospital system personnel and most EMS workers will be vaccinated through the hospital systems, and other healthcare providers not affiliated with a hospital will coordinate with the LaSalle County Health Department and will be provided information and direction on receiving the vaccination at one of our local hospitals.

Any healthcare employee working in LaSalle County not affiliated with a hospital system, is encouraged to visit the LaSalle County Health Department at www.lasallecounty.org, click the red COVID-19 Vaccine icon on the right side of the page, there you will find a red "Healthcare Employee Vaccine Sign-Up" link where you can register to receive a vaccination.

-more-

LaSalle County is in Phase 1a of vaccine administration, which includes healthcare personnel and long-term care facilities. It is unknown how long we will remain in this phase, as timing depends on the quantity of vaccine received each week and the number of interested persons in this phase.

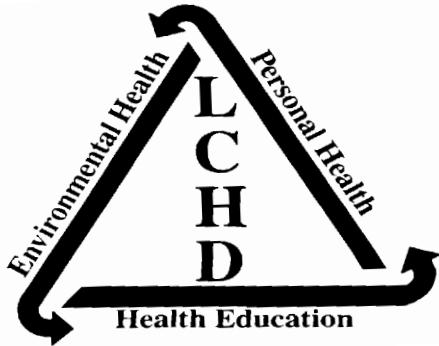
The LaSalle County Health Department understands the general public has questions about when it will be their turn to receive the vaccine. Please note, as vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. As vaccine supply increases but remains limited, ACIP, and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will expand the groups recommended for vaccination.

The LaSalle County Health Department is currently planning for Phase 1b and working to determine eligible organizations and number of doses needed at future clinics. The LaSalle County Health Department is **not** keeping a list of interested community members for future phases. As LaSalle County moves to Phase 1B, information and directions will be made available as to how to register for the vaccine once eligible. We will be reaching out to eligible organizations and/or providing information through our local media partners, social media pages, and website with information regarding clinics when we move forward into Phase 1b. More information about future phases will be available soon. The LaSalle County Health Department will be diligent in updating the public regarding the COVID-19 vaccination plan for the county. Please watch for more information from the LaSalle County Health Department through our website: www.lasallecounty.org, social media pages, and with our local media partners.

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MEDIA RELEASE



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To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
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Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

**"Individuals Eligible for Phase 1B Are Encouraged to Complete COVID-19 Vaccine Notification Sign-up
Now Available on LaSalle County Health Department's Website"**

The LaSalle County Health Department anticipates being able to move into Phase 1B as early as next week. Phase 1B will include frontline essential workers and residents age 65 and over. In the beginning stages of Phase 1B, priority will be given to individuals 65 years and older, as they have experienced the highest mortality rate. In preparation and planning, LaSalle County Health Department is collecting information on the number of persons in Phase 1b (as defined by ACIP and IDPH) who are eligible and who intend to receive the vaccine through LaSalle County.

To be notified of COVID-19 vaccination clinics, we are asking **anyone eligible for Phase 1B** to complete the "COVID-19 Vaccine Notification Sign-up" Form. Please visit the LaSalle County's website at www.lasallecounty.org. and click the red COVID-19 Vaccine icon on the right side of the page. There you will find a green "COVID-19 Phase 1B Vaccine Notification Sign-up" link where you can complete the form.

After completing this form, individuals will be notified by an email from the LaSalle County Health Department when a clinic has been scheduled. Please complete the form as soon as possible as clinic plans are being finalized. The email will contain a link to register for the clinic and the ability to choose an appointment time. Clinics and appointments will be based on vaccine availability and are subject to change. Scheduled appointments are necessary due to social distancing requirements and the recommended wait time after receiving the vaccine.

Eligible persons for this phase include:

- Individuals over 65 years of age
- Front line Workers (fire, law enforcement, 911 workers, security personnel, school officers)
- Education (Pre-K through 12th grade, and child care: teachers, principals, support, day care workers)
- Food and Agriculture (Processing, Plants, Veterinary Health, Livestock Services, Animal Care)
- Manufacturing (Industrial Production of Goods for Distribution to Retail, Wholesale and Other Manufacturing)

- Corrections Workers and Inmates (Prison/Jail Officers, Juvenile Facility Staff, workers Providing In-Person Support, Inmates)
- United States Postal Services Workers
- Public Transit Workers (Flight Crew, Bus Drivers, Train Conductors, Taxi Drivers, Ride Sharing Services)
- Grocery Store Workers (Baggers, Cashiers, Stockers, Pick-Up, Customer Service)
- Shelters/Adult Day Care (Homeless Shelter, Women's Shelter, Adult Day/Drop-in Program, Sheltered Workshop, Psycho-Social Rehab)

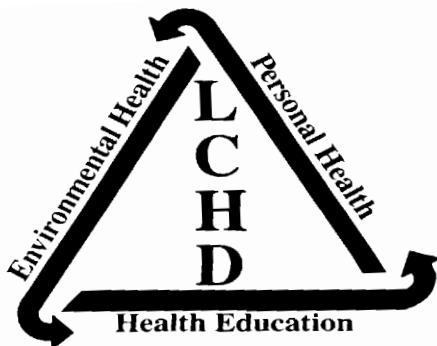
The LaSalle County Health Department understands the general public has questions about when it will be their turn to receive the vaccine. Please note, as vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. As vaccine supply increases but remains limited, ACIP, and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will expand the groups recommended for vaccination.

The LaSalle County Health Department will be diligent in updating the public regarding the COVID-19 vaccination plan for the county. Please watch for more information from the LaSalle County Health Department through our website: www.lasallecounty.org, social media pages, and with our local media partners

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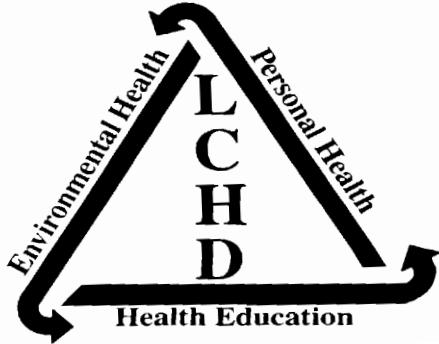
"January is Cervical Cancer Month"

OTTAWA, IL—In recognition of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month the LaSalle County Health Department is urging women over the age of 21 to be screened for cervical cancer. The goal is to eradicate cervical cancer in Illinois by women taking charge and getting screened. During 2021 an estimated 13,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with cervical cancer, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). We want to remind people that even though we are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is extremely important that women keep up with their annual screenings. Cervical cancer, when caught early, is nearly 100 percent curable.

The ACS reports that between 60 and 80 percent of American women with newly diagnosed invasive cervical cancer have not had a Pap Smear in the last five years and /or may have never had one. Cervical Cancer is one of the most common types of cancer worldwide and one of the most preventable and treatable when detected early. In addition to increasing awareness of cervical cancer there are some preventative steps that women can take. Studies have shown, regular exercise, a healthy diet, routine screenings and getting the cervical cancer vaccine to help prevent Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), decreases the risk for cervical cancer. Licensed HPV vaccines for females and males are available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends 11 or 12 year old girls and boys begin the HPV vaccine series. (Vaccination can be started at age 9.) The vaccination series must be completed by age 45. HPV vaccination is offered at LaSalle County Health Department immunization clinics which are held monthly. Those who are interested in scheduling an appointment or want more information can call the Health Department.

The LaSalle County Health Department also has a program available which can pay for Pap Smear tests for LaSalle or Grundy County women, ages 21-64 who have no insurance or who have high deductibles regardless of income. We invite and encourage anyone who needs more information on cervical cancer and the importance of Pap Smear tests, the IBCCP program, or the cervical cancer vaccines to contact the Health Department at 1-815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org

MEDIA RELEASE



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To: All Media
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Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"What to Expect After Individuals Eligible for Phase 1B Complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Notification Form"

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to provide further instruction on what to expect after individuals eligible for Phase 1B complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Notification Form.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- You will receive an email that you have successfully completed the notification form.
- In the near future, as clinics are scheduled you will receive emails with specific instructions and links on how to schedule your vaccination appointment. **These emails will be sent from LaSalle County Health Department.**
- After you register for your appointment you will receive an email with a "ticket." **You need to bring this ticket with you, along with a photo I.D.**
- **You do not need to bring your insurance card or Medicare/Medicaid card.**

Any individual who needs assistance completing the COVID-19 Vaccine Notification form or does not have computer/internet access, please contact Bridges Senior Center or Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS). These agencies have agreed to provide assistance to anyone 65 years and older.

- **Bridges Senior Center – (815) 431-8034**
- **Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS) – (815) 539-7700**

The LaSalle County Health Department encourages anyone needing transportation assistance to contact the following organizations.

Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS) provides door-to-door transportation services for any resident of LaSalle County age 60 or older. Service is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5 pm for any purpose. All MASS vehicles are handicapped accessible.

To schedule a ride, call 815-539-7700 or 815-539-9673 24 hours in advance. Same day service may be available based on vehicle availability.

North Central Area Transit (NCAT) provides door-to-door, origin to destination public bus transportation for LaSalle County. **To schedule your ride, call 833-433-NCAT (6228) by 10:00am the day before your requested trip** with the addresses of your pickup and drop off locations and the times you need to travel.

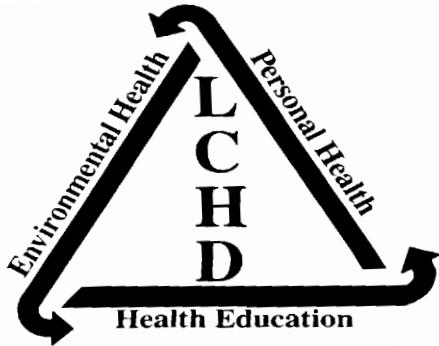
Service is available Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm to ANYONE for ANY PURPOSE. One-way fares are \$2.50 for in town rides and \$5.00 or more for out of town. All NCAT vehicles are lift equipped, making our fleet completely accessible. Masks are required. Visit www.ridencat.com for more information about NCAT services.

The LaSalle County Health Department will be diligent in updating the public regarding the COVID-19 vaccination plan for the county. Please watch for more information from the LaSalle County Health Department through our website: www.lasallecounty.org, social media pages, and with our local media partners.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: January 20, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"Important Reminders About Phase 1B Vaccine Notification Sign-Up and Scheduling COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments"

LaSalle County Health Department has had an amazing response to our Phase 1B notification sign-up. There have been over 15,000 individuals in Phase 1B who have registered to receive vaccination notifications. Anyone who signed up to receive COVID-19 vaccination notifications, **please be patient**. The Health Department is only receiving a small amount of vaccine into the county at this time. Therefore, we can only schedule clinics for the amount of vaccine we receive.

Due to the large volume, the emails containing instructions on how to register for an appointment at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic must be sent out in batches, and will be sent out in the order in which they were received. We can only send out emails for appointments based on the number of vaccines we have available. **This means not everyone has received an email yet.**

Important Things to Remember:

- If you registered for the notification form and received a confirmation email, we have your information.
- **DO NOT CALL** the LaSalle County Health Department to schedule your vaccine appointment or to ask when you will receive an email with details on how to register for COVID-19 vaccination appointments.
- LaSalle County Health Department intends to hold weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Clinics are designed to use our allotment of weekly vaccines into the county until our vaccine supply increases.
- Keep checking your email, additional clinics will continue to be added in the coming weeks.
- Check your spam and junk folders.

If you are eligible under Phase1B, and have not signed up for the COVID-19 Vaccination Notification form, please visit the LaSalle County website at www.lasallecounty.org. Click on the red COVID-19 Vaccine Information icon and complete the notification form. **Only individuals working or living in LaSalle County may receive vaccine through LaSalle County.** The LCHD will include you as a potential recipient of vaccine in LaSalle County. **THIS DOES NOT SCHEDULE YOUR VACCINATION APPOINTMENT.** This allows us to contact you through email with details as to how to register as COVID-19 vaccination appointments become available. Link to Notification Form - <https://hipaa.jotform.com/203514554490049>

LaSalle County has moved into Phase 1B for COVID-19 Vaccinations. Yesterday, the LaSalle County Health Department held their first COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic for individuals 65 years and older. There were 710 vaccinations given at the clinic. This clinic, which was held at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) was scheduled **by appointment only** to maintain safety and social distancing requirements.

The LaSalle County Health Department will be diligent in updating the public regarding the COVID-19 vaccination plan for the county. Please watch for more information from the LaSalle County Health Department through our website: www.lasallecounty.org, social media pages, and with our local media partners. # # #

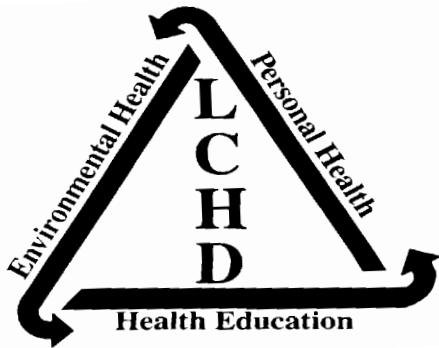


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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: January 47, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"COVID Vaccination Clinic for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 is RESCHEDULED due to Weather"

The COVID-19 "By Appointment Only" Vaccination Clinic at Illinois Valley Community College for tomorrow, January 26, 2021 has been rescheduled. This is due to the Winter Storm Warning that is not expected to expire until noon on Tuesday. The LaSalle County Health Department apologizes for any inconvenience that this may cause but we want to ensure the safety of our citizens. Please know that your appointment has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at the same time and location. Please hold on to the ticket you have received and further instructions will be emailed to you closer to the rescheduled clinic date.

North Central Area Transit (NCAT) provides door-to-door, origin to destination public bus transportation for LaSalle County. **To schedule your ride, call 833-433-NCAT (6228) by 10:00am the day before your requested trip** with the addresses of your pickup and drop off locations and the times you need to travel.

Service is available Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm to ANYONE for ANY PURPOSE. One-way fares are \$2.50 for in town rides and \$5.00 or more for out of town. All NCAT vehicles are lift equipped, making our fleet completely accessible. Masks are required. Visit www.ridencat.com for more information about NCAT services.

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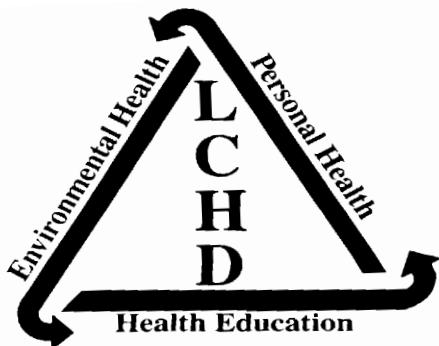


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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: January 26, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
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Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
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Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"Health Department makes schedule adjustment for some services"

Ottawa, IL – Due to planned COVID - 19 mass vaccination clinics, the following services will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the LaSalle County Health Department.

- TB services
- Walk-ins for flu shots or other immunizations
- COVID testing will be done by appointment M-W-F, and Saturday mornings.

The above services will **not** be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays until further notice so that our Public Health Nurses can assist with the COVID 19 vaccination clinics. We appreciate the publics' understanding at this time.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: February 16, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"Changes to the COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out and How it Effects LaSalle County"

Late last week, the LaSalle County Health Department was made aware of two changes to the vaccine rollout plan that will have a serious impact on how and when doses will be available to the majority of our residents. These changes were announced by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

First, local health departments will be allocated fewer first doses of vaccine to make sure that everyone who already got their first dose will get their second dose. By now, national and state public health leaders had expected that vaccine would be more plentiful. This isn't the case. Our weekly allocation has continued to remain small. In addition, we have been informed it will be reduced drastically over the next several weeks.

As of this update, we anticipate receiving only 300 first doses of vaccine this week, as opposed to the 1300 we have been consistently receiving. We don't yet know the number of doses that we will receive in the weeks to come, as those amounts have not been finalized. In addition, we continue to share vaccine doses with our local hospitals as they work to vaccinate the education sub-group. We will continue discussions with our local hospital partners to adjust to the potential decrease in first dose vaccine and the best way to proceed.

This change, by default, will reduce the number of opportunities for people to get their first doses through us, but there is some good news. Pharmacies in LaSalle County are starting to get shipments directly from IDPH. First dose shots could be available at:

- CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine> (Mendota)
- Hy-Vee: <https://www.hy-vee.com/my-pharmacy/covid-vaccine-consent> (Peru)
- Kroger: <https://www.kroger.com/i/coronavirus-update/vaccine> (North Ottawa and Streator)
- Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19> (Peru and Ottawa)

Please visit their websites for appointment availability. The LaSalle County Health Department understands we still have more people who want the vaccine than we have doses, but the number of ways to be vaccinated is growing.

The second major change is both good and challenging news. Starting Feb. 25, IDPH is opening vaccine opportunities to Illinoisans with certain underlying health conditions, including:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Diabetes
- Heart Condition
- Immunocompromised State from a Solid Organ Transplant
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary Disease
- Sickle Cell Disease

As you can imagine, we are pleased to be able to offer vaccine protection to people with these serious health conditions. However, we are worried that expanding eligibility without greatly expanding vaccine supply will lead to more frustration. Health Department staff are trying to manage expectations of LaSalle County residents. Individuals in the expansion will have a chance to receive their vaccination, but they could be several weeks away from getting a time slot at a Health Department clinic or with our pharmacy partners. Please understand that public health and our partners are working hard on your behalf and that this process is frustrating for all of us.

We are continuing to prioritize 65 years and older in the Phase 1B category. However, on February 25th, our COVID-19 Vaccine Notification Form will include the category of 16-64 yrs. with underlying medical conditions. Anyone who falls into this category will be able to register at www.lasallecounty.org. Click on the red COVID-19 Vaccine Information icon and complete the green Phase 1B notification form.

Since January 12th, we have had over 17,000 people sign up for Phase 1B Vaccine Notification. Of this total, 71% are individuals 65 years and older. Please note this list is constantly influx as we have additional people sign up every day and remove people who have contacted us to let us know they have received their vaccination elsewhere. We are working through the Phase 1B list as quickly as possible based on the

weekly vaccine allotment we are receiving. However, this process is going to take time and we appreciate your continued patience.

Despite the frustration with the slow roll-out of COVID-19 vaccine, LaSalle County is making progress. IDPH is keeping track of how many doses are given in each county and bases it on each county's total population. As of February 15th, IDPH shows that more than 16,956 doses have been administered in LaSalle County and that 3,614 have gotten both doses. In addition, Health Department staff have been able to vaccinate 4,100 individuals 65 years and older at the clinics being held at Illinois Valley Community College.

This is a herculean effort, and we are incredibly proud of our staff, our partners and our volunteers. We thank you for your continued patience and understand that this process has been frustrating at times. We're frustrated too. The LaSalle County Health Department will continue to distribute the vaccine as efficiently as our supply allows. Until then, please continue to wear your mask, watch your distance and wash your hands. Each dose given brings us closer to making our way out of these challenging times.

Finally, the LaSalle County Health Department has scheduled and will be conducting second-dose vaccination clinics this week. **Please note these clinics are not impacted by the smaller allotment we anticipate receiving this week.** Anyone who had their first COVID-19 vaccine dose at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) on January 19th or January 21st, should have received an email with instructions to register for an appointment time at a second dose clinic. Please check your spam/junk folder if you have not received an email. If the individual did not have email/internet access, the LaSalle County Health Department has contacted those individuals to schedule their 2nd dose appointment.

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LaSalle County Health Department



COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Instructions

LaSalle County –Phase 1b Clinic

**You have a COVID-19 vaccination appointment scheduled
at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC).
See your ticket for your scheduled date and time.**

**Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC)
815 Orlando Smith Road
Oglesby, IL 61348**

Instructions for the Day of Vaccination Clinic

- If you do not feel well the day of your appointment, do not come to the vaccination clinic.
- If you have received your vaccination somewhere else or cannot make your appointment, Please Notify the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366. **This allows us to fill your appointment with another person.**
- **PLEASE BRING:**
 - ✓ Bring a copy of your printed ticket or a screenshot of the ticket on your phone.
 - ✓ Bring a Photo ID
 - ✓ Your Insurance Card or Medicare/Medicaid card.

(While there is not a cost for the vaccine, vaccination providers can charge an administration fee for giving the shot. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients by the Health Resources and Services Administration at the US Department of Health and Human Services.)

 - ✓ Your Vaccine Record Card that was given to you at your first appointment.
- You **Will Not** be turned away if you do not have insurance.
- As you enter the clinic, **have your Photo ID, Insurance/Medicare/Medicaid card, and ticket ready to be reviewed.**
- Patients will need to wear a face covering.
- All patients must follow instructions and maintain social distancing.
- You **MUST** have an APPOINTMENT to get vaccinated.
- Absolutely **NO walk-ins**; you will be turned away and asked to leave.

Parking and Entrance

- Go to Illinois Valley Community College, 815 North Orlando Smith Road, Oglesby, IL
- Please park in Parking Lot 7.
- Enter the clinic through the door off of Parking Lot 7.
- **Please arrive at your scheduled appointment time.** Entry to the building is based on appointment time. If you arrive earlier, we ask that you remain in your warm car until your appointment time.
- You have an appointment time and will receive your vaccination. **Appointments are scheduled for your safety and to maintain social distancing.**
- The clinic provides an easy and accessible entrance and protection from the elements.

Additional Instructions

- Unless assistance is needed, only individuals that are receiving the vaccine should be present.
- If you need assistance, please bring someone with you. Otherwise, we ask that only people receiving the vaccine come to the clinic.
- This is a clinic and long lines and extended periods of standing are to be expected.
- Individuals should wear clothing to allow easy access to the upper portion of the arm for injection.
- Social distancing must be followed. Please stay 6ft. apart when waiting in line.

Vaccine Information

- Pfizer and Moderna are both a two-dose series that are 90-95 percent effective after both vaccinations are received.
- The second dose is given 21 or 28 days later as directed by the manufacturer.
- Individuals will receive information on how to sign up for text reminders for their second dose as well as receive a vaccination record card with their recommended return date for the second dose.
- The vaccine does not contain a live virus and you cannot get COVID from the vaccine. Some people may develop side effects from their body building immunity which includes soreness at the injection site, fever, headache or body aches. Symptoms should resolve in 24-48 hours. The body takes several weeks to build immunity so people could be infected just before receiving the vaccine or shortly after so continuing proven infection prevention measures is important.
- Continue to wear a mask, socially distance, wash hands frequently, and stay home if you are sick.

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: April 1, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Recognizes National Public Health Week"

OTTAWA, IL- During the first full week of April each year, the American Public Health Association(APHA) brings together communities across the US to observe National Public Health Week. National Public Health Week, with the theme "Building Bridges to Better Health," will be observed April 5-11, 2021.

While we may be physically distant from each other, it's more important than ever to come together. Making communities safe and healthy is public health's top priority. COVID-19 has made that even more important. Public Health serves as an invisible shield of protection to promote and protect the health of people in the communities where they live, learn, work, and play for generations to come.

As a reminder, here are a few of the programs and services the Health Department offers on a regular basis. Citizens are encouraged to call and speak with a staff member for additional information and questions.

- Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) – Do you qualify for a free mammogram and pap smear? Our IBCCP nurse is available to answer eligibility questions and enroll qualified women.
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)-The mission of the LaSalle County Women WIC program is to improve the health status of women, infants, and children; to reduce the incidence of infant mortality, premature births and low birth weights; and to aid in the development of children. This program serves income eligible pregnant, post-partum, breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five years. The WIC program provides health screening, nutrition education and counseling, and supplemental foods including formula for infants.
- Free HIV tests and Hepatitis C Screening (finger stick test) – If you feel you should be tested or have questions regarding your risk factors, our communicable disease nurse is available to answer questions in a confidential setting.
- Low-cost childhood and adult immunizations - Please call the Health Department to schedule an appointment.

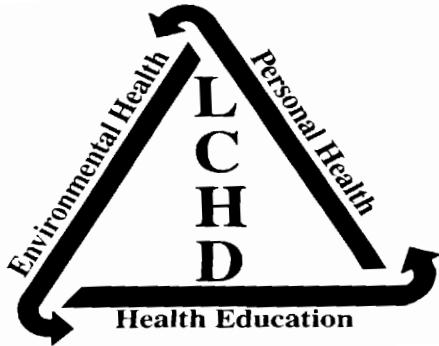
- Free Radon Test Kits – The Health Department, through a grant from the IEMA, has free radon test kits available to residents of LaSalle County. Test kits can be picked up at the health department during regular business hours (Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at 717 E. Etna Road in Ottawa. A staff member will assist you with the instructions on using the test kit, as well as provide information regarding radon, radon measurement, and radon mitigation. Additionally, should your radon test results show a high level of radon in your home, the health department can provide you with a list of licensed radon measurement professionals and licensed radon mitigation professionals for follow-up.

The LaSalle County Health Department will also utilize social media to help increase awareness of public health issues and National Public Health Week. The Health Department's Facebook page will be updated daily with posts that offer tips on a variety of public health issues and also highlight some of the programs available at the Health Department. For additional information on programs and services offered, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: April 7, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Opens COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments to Individuals in Phase 2"

The LaSalle County Health Department continues to move forward and will expand our clinic availability to include individuals in Phase 2, which focuses on ensuring access to vaccine for all populations 16 years and above. **Please note, appointments are still available for those individuals who qualify as Phase 1A, Phase 1B (65 years and older and Frontline Essential Workers) and Phase 1B+ (16-64 years of age with underlying medical conditions).**

As the vaccine will be available for all ages 16 and above, the Health Department has transitioned away from utilizing the "COVID Vaccine Notification Sign-up List" we began in early January. **Information regarding upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Appointment Availability will NOW be posted on our website.** Please visit www.lasallecounty.org and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccine Information" icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment at an upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Please continue to check the website regularly for appointment availability. Additional dates will be added as more vaccine become available.

To meet the demand of expanded eligibility, the Health Department is planning a large clinic on Friday, April 23, 2021 at Illinois Valley Community College from 11am-7pm. Appointments are currently available and able to be scheduled for this clinic.

Friday, April 23, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)

Must be 16 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/8992d086-90df-4e76-a53b-9bab46e788d3/>

Friday, April 23, 2021 ---- Moderna (Dose 1 Appointment)

Must be 18 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/1f88a51c-3b06-4ecf-a97c-8d0de4bb9017/>

Important Things to Remember:

- Appointment availability is only for those scheduling their first dose. If you received your first dose elsewhere, we will not be able to complete your second dose at this time.
- All second dose appointments will be scheduled upon attending your first dose appointment.
- Must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian if under 18 years old.
- COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics will be held at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) unless otherwise noted.

In addition, pharmacies in LaSalle County are receiving COVID-19 vaccine shipments directly from IDPH. Please visit their websites for appointment availability:

- CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine> (Mendota)
- Hy-Vee: <https://www.hy-vee.com/my-pharmacy/covid-vaccine-consent> (Peru)
- Kroger: <https://www.kroger.com/i/coronavirus-update/vaccine> (North Ottawa and Streator)
- Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19> (Peru, Ottawa, and Streator)
- Walmart: <https://corporate.walmart.com/covid-vaccine> (Peru, Ottawa, Streator)

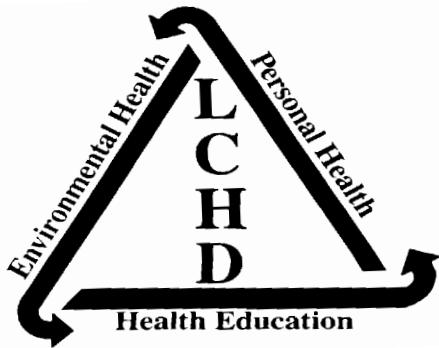
Also, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) launched the Vaccine Appointment Call Center to assist people who do not have access to or who have difficulty navigating online services in making appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Eligible Illinoisans can now call (833) 621-1284 to schedule a COVID-19 vaccine appointment in your area.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: April 10, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Partners with the Illinois National Guard to Hold a Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic"

The LaSalle County Health Department will be holding a Johnson and Johnson "One and Done" COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in partnership with the Illinois National Guard.

Where: Illinois Valley Community College, 815 N Orlando Smith St., Oglesby, IL

When: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Currently, there are 900 Appointments available and able to be scheduled for this clinic.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 ---- Johnson & Johnson ("One and Done")

Must be 18 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment: <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/1d9a7a71-1a75-446a-9948-788f05463af9/>

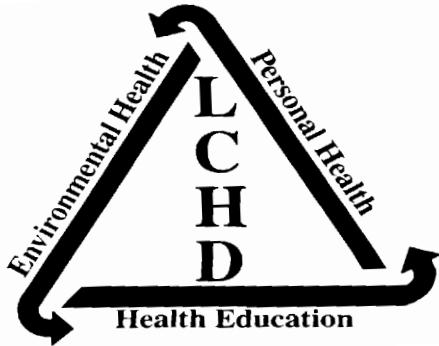
Information regarding upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Appointment Availability is NOW posted on our website. Please visit www.lasallecounty.org and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccine Information" icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment at an upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Please continue to check the website regularly for appointment availability. Additional dates will be added as more vaccine become available.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#



MEDIA RELEASE



Date: April 13, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"The LaSalle County Health Department will now offer Moderna Vaccine at the April 14th Clinic in Partnership with the Illinois National Guard"

The LaSalle County Health Department is aware of the CDC's recent recommendation concerning the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. We have been in contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois National Guard to evaluate the situation and determine next steps.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at Illinois Valley Community College will continue as scheduled, however **Moderna vaccine will now be utilized**. Anyone who has an appointment scheduled, please keep that appointment, there will be a vaccine available.

All second dose appointments will be scheduled upon attending your first dose appointment.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: April 24, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Will Offer Pfizer Vaccinations at April 27th COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic"

The LaSalle County Health Department has added morning appointments for the Pfizer vaccine at the Tuesday, April 27, 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC). Please follow the link below to schedule an appointment:

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)

Must be 16 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment: <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/21557247-8d0d-4fc8-80ac-9679ece95867/>

Please note, there are still available appointments for the Moderna vaccine at the April 27th and April 29th clinics at IVCC.

Information regarding upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Appointment Availability is NOW posted on our website. Please visit www.lasallecounty.org and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccine Information" icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment at an upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Please continue to check the website regularly for appointment availability. Additional dates will be added as more vaccine become available.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: April 29, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Partners with the Illinois National Guard to Hold a Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic"

The LaSalle County Health Department will be holding a Johnson and Johnson "One and Done" COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in partnership with the Illinois National Guard.

Where: Illinois Valley Community College, 815 N Orlando Smith St., Oglesby, IL

When: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Currently there are available appointments that can be scheduled for this clinic.

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 ---- Johnson & Johnson ("One and Done")

Must be 18 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment: <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/c1e8412b-611b-4093-9d8b-ea67e3bcff20/>

Information regarding upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Appointment Availability is NOW posted on our website. Please visit www.lasallecounty.org and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccine Information" icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment at an upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Please continue to check the website regularly for appointment availability. Additional dates will be added as more vaccine become available.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: May 5, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Offers Johnson and Johnson Vaccine at Saturday Morning Clinics"

The LaSalle County Health Department will be offering Johnson and Johnson "One and Done" COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics on Saturday mornings (**by appointment only**) at the Health Department, 717 Etna Road, Ottawa. Individuals must be 18 years old to receive the vaccine.

If you are interested in receiving the Johnson and Johnson vaccine at an upcoming Saturday clinic, please call the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 to schedule an appointment.

CDC and FDA have recommended that use of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine resume in the United States, effective April 23, 2021. A review of all available data at this time shows that the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks for those recommended to receive it. However, women younger than 50 years old especially should be aware of the rare risk of blood clots with low platelets after vaccination, and that other COVID-19 vaccines are available where this risk has not been seen.

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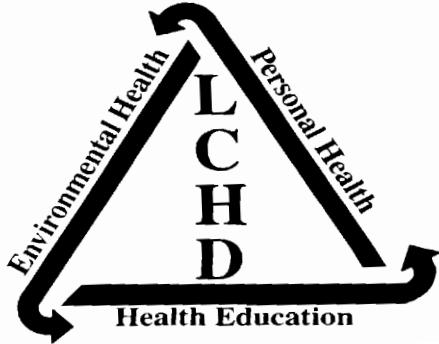
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www.lasallecounty.org

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: May 10, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"Walk-Ins Welcome at May 12th Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic"

The "One and Done" Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic being held at Illinois Valley Community College (815 N Orlando Smith St., Oglesby) on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 will be open to Walk-Ins. No appointment is necessary to receive a J&J vaccination that day.

- Individuals must be 18 years old. If you have insurance, please bring that information with you. You will not be denied a vaccine if you do not have insurance.
- Anyone that currently has a 2nd Dose Moderna or "One and Done" J&J appointment for this clinic please come at your scheduled time.
- The clinic is open from 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and then will reopen from 1:45-5:30 p.m.
- Please park in Parking Lot 7 and come in through the door off the parking lot.

The LaSalle County Health Department is holding this COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in partnership with the Illinois National Guard. For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: May 10, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month"

OTTAWA – In observance of Lyme Disease Awareness month and the warmer weather our area has been experiencing, it's important to take precautions against tick bites and the illnesses they can carry. Illnesses like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme disease, Tularemia, and Ehrlichiosis can cause mild symptoms or severe infections. In LaSalle County, Lyme disease is the tick-related illness seen most commonly. There were 5 cases of Lyme disease confirmed in the county in 2020.

YEAR	NUMBER OF HUMAN CASES
2016	2
2017	2
2018	4
2019	8
2020	5

For the past two summers, the Health Department participated as a partner in the I-TICK (Illinois Tick Inventory Collaboration Network) program that engages citizens across Illinois in helping gather data on ticks. Because ticks carry a number of diseases that affect people and animals, the data and ticks collected through this program help with surveillance to determine the risk of disease in our area and throughout Illinois. In addition, Health Department staff assisted the University of Illinois as they conducted tick drags which confirmed the presence of Lyme Disease in the county.

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. The risk of exposure to ticks is greatest in the woods and in the edge area between lawns and woods; however, ticks can also be carried by animals onto lawns and gardens and into houses by pets. Campers, hikers, outdoor workers, and others may be exposed to infected ticks in wooded, brushy, and grassy places. People who spend time in heavily wooded areas where infected ticks are common are at higher risk for exposure.

"Tick exposure can occur year-round, but ticks are more active during warmer months (April- September). Frequent tick checks increase the likelihood of finding a tick before it can transmit disease. While antibiotics can treat illnesses due to bites, it's best to avoid tick exposure altogether by taking some simple precautions," says Chris Pozzi, Director of Environmental Health at LaSalle County Health Department.

-More-

Simple tips to avoid tick exposure include:

- Wear light-colored clothing to make ticks easier to find. Tuck long pants into socks and boots.
- Apply an EPA-registered insect repellent containing 20% DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus according to label directions.
- Use products that contain permethrin to treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants, socks and sleeping tents. Or look for clothing pre-treated with permethrin.
- Walk in the center of trails. Avoid wooded, bushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
- Conduct full-body tick checks on family members (underarms, ears, belly button, behind knees, between legs, waist, hair and scalp) every two to three hours. Also check any gear or pets taken on outings.
- Put your clothes in the dryer on high for 10 minutes (or one hour for damp clothes) to kill ticks.
- Bathe or shower within two hours after coming indoors.
- If you find a tick on yourself, it is often helpful to keep the tick for species identification. Place the tick in rubbing alcohol or in a sealed bag/container to bring to your healthcare provider or local health department for submission to IDPH. A submission form can be found on the [IDPH website](#).

If you find a tick attached to your skin, there's no need to panic. Remove the tick as soon as possible to reduce your chances of getting an infection from the tick bite. The CDC recommends the following steps to remove a tick:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure to remove the tick. Avoid twisting or jerking. If the mouthparts remain in the skin, leave them alone. In most cases, they will fall out in a few days.
Don't use nail polish, petroleum jelly, or a hot match to make the tick detach.
3. Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.

If you become ill with a fever and/or rash after being in an area where ticks may be, please contact your health care provider. The most common symptoms of tick-related illnesses can include fever, chills, aches, pains, and rash (not in all cases). Early recognition and treatment of the infection decreases the risk of serious complications.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit their website at www.lasallecounty.org. Also, please visit the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) interactive tick surveillance map created by their Vector Control staff. The map shows what ticks have been identified in Illinois by county, in addition to the diseases they were tested for and number of positive results.

<https://idph.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=976061db733441eb977ef5cf2facd5c4>

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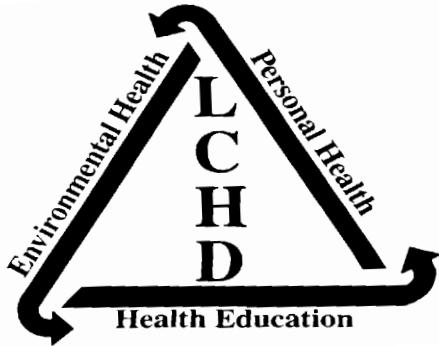


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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: May 13, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Expands COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments to Individuals 12-15+ Years of Age"

The LaSalle County Health Department will expand clinic availability to include individuals 12-15+ years of age. Appointments are now available for Saturday clinics which will be held at the LaSalle County Health Department, 717 Etna Road, Ottawa.

In addition, the LaSalle County Health Department has partnered with local high schools in larger communities to hold COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics this summer. Our goal is to vaccinate students 12 years of age and older. If additional appointment space is available, other community residents that are still in need of a vaccination will be able to attend. The Health Department encourages parents and students at nearby feeder schools to take advantage of this opportunity in their communities.

Currently there are available appointments that can be scheduled for the following clinics:

Saturday, May 15, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
LaSalle County Health Department

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/6d7ecddc-4b98-4123-800b-739fc166045f/>

Saturday, May 22, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
LaSalle County Health Department

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/6d7ecddc-4b98-4123-800b-739fc166045f/>

Saturday, May 29, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
LaSalle County Health Department

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/6d7ecddc-4b98-4123-800b-739fc166045f/>

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
Streator High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/d8793c66-d4ec-46f4-a453-b707bf02b80a/>

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
Mendota High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/17a80178-1fb5-42c5-bd74-bb93c6290680/>

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
LaSalle-Peru Township High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/40ca432d-beaa-4851-a149-4504b6514e49/>

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
Ottawa High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/71680517-bb07-4640-a872-ebb6fd71f9/>

Important Things to Remember:

- **Must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian if under 18 years old.**
- Appointment availability is only for those scheduling their first dose. If you received your first dose elsewhere, we will not be able to complete your second dose at this time.
- All second dose appointments will be scheduled upon attending your first dose appointment.

Information regarding upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Appointment Availability is posted on our website. Please visit www.lasallecounty.org and click on the “COVID-19 Vaccine Information” icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment at an upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Please continue to check the website regularly for appointment availability. Additional dates will be added as more vaccine become available.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department’s website at www.lasallecounty.org. # # #



MEDIA RELEASE



Date: May 20, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"Health Department Begins Dead Bird Surveillance"

Ottawa, IL – While mosquitoes have not been shown to transmit COVID-19, they can transmit other diseases such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, and La Crosse encephalitis virus. While spending time outdoors, please remember to wear an EPA-registered insect repellent to help prevent mosquito bites.

The LaSalle County Health Department has begun collecting dead birds and will continue this process until October 15, 2021. Dead birds are important sentinels for early detection of West Nile virus activity. West Nile virus generally appears in birds and mosquitoes before it is transmitted to humans. Over the past nineteen years, West Nile virus activity has been documented throughout LaSalle County. If you find a dead bird, please contact the Health Department's Environmental Health Division at 815-433-3366. Listed below is the criteria the Health Department uses to determine if a bird is eligible to submit for testing:

1. The bird is dead, but the carcass is in good condition. Birds should be dead no more than about 48 hours prior to collection, and should not show signs of advanced decomposition (maggots, strong odor, dried or deflated eyes).
2. The bird shows no sign it died of causes other than disease. Birds with obvious injuries such as wounds or missing parts should not be submitted for testing. Likewise, crushed carcasses and birds found along roadways are not acceptable.
3. The bird must be one that is acceptable for testing. At this time the Health Department is only collecting **crows, blue jays, and robins**. To help identify the type of bird, please visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org for bird identification information.

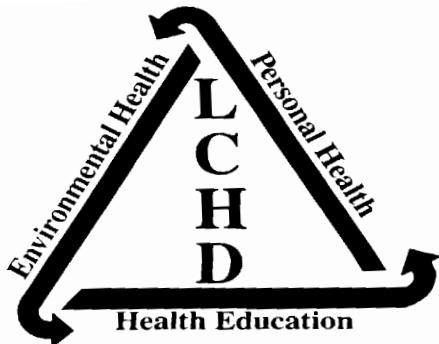
As in past years, Health Department staff is getting ready to begin testing mosquitoes for West Nile virus. The mosquito collection and testing equipment was purchased with grant money. The Health Department also utilized the grant money to purchase a large quantity of mosquito larvicide, which is used to treat potential mosquito breeding sites. The larvicide will be distributed to licensed mosquito control applicators from local municipalities and villages throughout the county.

For additional information on West Nile virus, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: May 26, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext.74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext.74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“ Great News for WIC Participants ”

Ottawa, IL – As a reminder, Illinois WIC has converted to EBT for food benefits. This has been advantageous for participants in the WIC program. With this change has come more food choices. Although WIC is a supplemental food program, it supplies foods from all food groups, including fresh fruits and vegetables. Under normal circumstances, the monthly cash- value benefit for fruits and vegetables are \$9 per child and \$11 for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women.

We are very excited to announce that thanks to the passage of the American Rescue Plan, Illinois WIC has chosen to temporarily increase the Cash Value Benefits for the purchase of fruits and vegetable up to \$35 per child and adult per month for four months.

These additional benefits will start June 1st, 2021 through September 29, 2021. This will increase the ability of WIC participants to buy and consume more healthy fruits and vegetables during this difficult time. WIC benefits can be used along with SNAP benefits. Eligibility includes Women (pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum) Infants and Children up to 5. If you have SNAP, Medicaid or meet current income guidelines, you qualify. Please call LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 to sign up.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: May 28, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"World No Tobacco Day"

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department would like to announce that Monday, May 31st is World No Tobacco Day. The ultimate goal of this years campaign is to contribute to protecting present and future generations not only from the devastating health consequences due to tobacco, but also from the social, environmental and economic detriments of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke. The tobacco industry addicts more than 2,000 youth everyday and one in three of them will die prematurely because of tobacco. And while millions of people are dying, Big Tobacco is raking in billions and billions of dollars.

The LaSalle County Health department would like to encourage everyone to join in on the campaign against smoking, which is the most preventable cause of death in the United States today. Over 400,000 deaths annually in the U.S. are directly related to smoking according to the ACS. One of every six deaths is attributed to the effects of smoking.

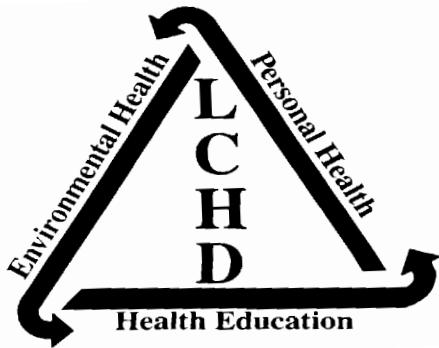
Now is the time to quit smoking. The Illinois Department of Public Health has a Tobacco Quitline that you can call for help. The number is 1-866 Quit-Yes that's 1-866-784-8937. For more information on how to quit smoking, or for some quit tips you can also call the Health Department 433-3366. You can also visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org. or like us on facebook and twitter.

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www.lasallecounty.org

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: June 4, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"Appointments Still Available for COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at Local High Schools"

The LaSalle County Health Department has partnered with local high schools in larger communities to hold COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics this summer. Our goal is to vaccinate students 12 years of age and older. The Health Department encourages parents to make plans to get your children 12 years and older vaccinated against COVID-19 to help protect them and others. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic. In addition, students at nearby feeder schools should take advantage of this opportunity in their communities.

Current guidelines for vaccinated individuals:

- Testing is not recommended for staff or students who are fully vaccinated
- Fully vaccinated students or staff are not required to quarantine or test, unless symptomatic

Parents, students, and staff who are vaccinated will experience less disruptions in their lives and daily activities. Please note, these clinics are open to all LaSalle County residents that are still in need of a vaccination.

Currently there are available appointments that can be scheduled for the following clinics:

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
Streator High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/d8793c66-d4ec-46f4-a453-b707bf02b80a/>

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
Mendota High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/17a80178-1fb5-42c5-bd74-bb93c6290680/>

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
LaSalle-Peru Township High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/40ca432d-beaa-4851-a149-4504b6514e49/>

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 ---- Pfizer (Dose 1 Appointment)
Ottawa High School

Must be 12 years old, and eligible per the State of Illinois.

Click link to schedule an appointment <https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/71680517-bb07-4640-a872-ebbbc6fd71f9/>

In addition, anyone who would like to schedule an appointment at a Saturday morning vaccination clinic (Pfizer and J&J vaccine) should call the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366.

Important Things to Remember:

- **Must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian if under 18 years old.**
- Appointment availability is only for those scheduling their first dose. If you received your first dose elsewhere, we will not be able to complete your second dose at this time.
- All second dose appointments will be scheduled upon attending your first dose appointment.

Information regarding upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics and Appointment Availability

is posted on our website. Please visit www.lasallecounty.org and click on the “COVID-19 Vaccine Information” icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment at an upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department’s website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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www.facebook.com/LaSalleCountyHealth



www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth

ATTENTION PARENTS: Make plans to get your children 12 years and older vaccinated against COVID-19 to help protect them and others. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic.

Currently there are available appointments that can be scheduled for the following clinics. Click the link to register.

➤ **Streator High School** **June 16th**

<https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/d8793c66-d4ec-46f4-a453-b707bf02b80a/>

➤ **Mendota High School** **June 23rd**

<https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/17a80178-1fb5-42c5-bd74-bb93c6290680/>

➤ **LP High School** **June 30th**

<https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/40ca432d-beaa-4851-a149-4504b6514e49/>

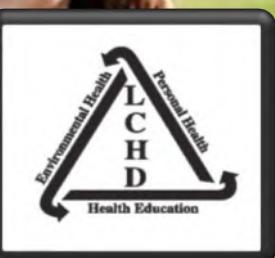
➤ **Ottawa High School** **July 7th**

<https://events.juvare.com/IL-IDPH/71680517-bb07-4640-a872-ebb6c6fd71f9/>

PFENNER



LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366 www.lasallecounty.org





MEDIA RELEASE

Date: June 11, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"Public Health Officials Announce COVID -19 vaccines available at the Health Department"

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to inform you that we have COVID -19 vaccine available at the Health Department **by appointment only**, Monday through Saturday. The Health Department has Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer available. Residents who still need to be vaccinated should call the Health Department at 815-433-3366 to make an appointment.

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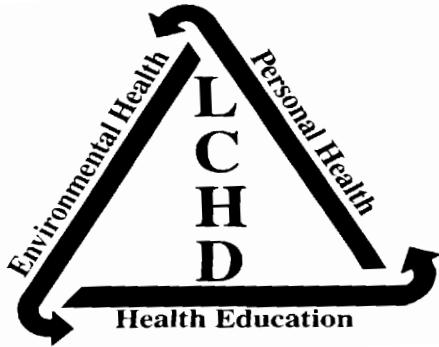


www.facebook.com/LaSalleCountyHealth



www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth
www.lasallecounty.org

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: July 19, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Conducts Community Health Needs Assessment Survey"

Ottawa, IL – LaSalle County residents have the chance to identify some of the health issues they face in their communities. A new online survey allows people to rate factors that influence a healthy community, including safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, the environment and healthy living. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and responses are confidential.

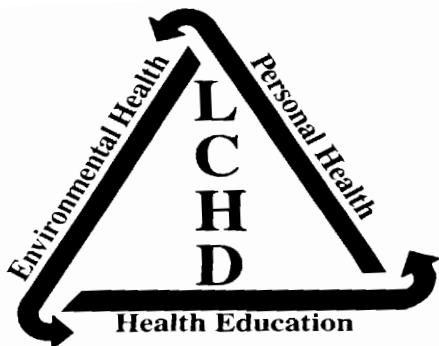
The Health Department will utilize the data from the survey as we work with our key community stakeholders. Many of these stakeholders are a part of the Department's Community Health Committee. This committee helps prioritize health problems in the county. The Health Department will begin the process of bringing this committee back together early next year to begin reviewing the survey results along with other statistical data. The committee will then begin to prioritize health issues for the county as part of our IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs). The IPLAN was developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and is a Community Health Assessment and Planning Process that is conducted every five years by local health jurisdictions in Illinois to be certified as a public health department.

The survey can be accessed at <https://form.jotform.com/211925446264154> or by visiting the Health Department's website (www.lasallecounty.org) or their social media pages. Printed versions are also available in the Health Department lobby. The Health Department is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 am- 4:30 pm. For additional information please call the department at 815-433-3366.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: July 29, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Leslie Dougherty (ex 74314) or Jenny Barrie (ex 74315)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“LaSalle County Seeing Substantial COVID -19 Transmission”

Ottawa, IL - - According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), LaSalle County is now experiencing substantial transmission of the COVID -19 virus. In accordance with the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) we are recommending that all County residents, including fully vaccinated people, should wear a mask while in public indoor settings now that we are seeing substantial transmission of the COVID-19 virus in LaSalle County.

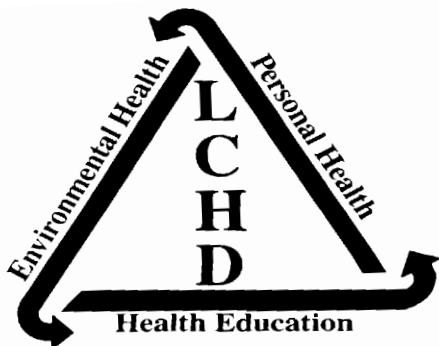
We recommend those who have not gotten vaccinated do so. Data continues to demonstrate that the vaccines are preventing severe illness, hospitalizations and death, and are effective against the Delta variant. According to CDC, data shows the Delta variant is much more contagious. Delta spreads more than twice as easily from one person to another compared to other strains. Although the Delta variant is causing some vaccine breakthrough infections, most breakthrough infections are mild, and the vaccines are preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 can prevent the spread of the virus, prevent illness, hospitalization and death.

The LaSalle County Health Department has COVID -19 vaccine available at the Health Department by appointment only, Monday through Friday. The Health Department has Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, and Pfizer available. Residents who still need to be vaccinated should call the Health Department at 815-433-3366 to make an appointment.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: August 25, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile virus”

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department received confirmation that mosquitoes from Ottawa tested positive for West Nile virus. The mosquitoes were collected on August 25th and Environmental Health staff conducted the confirmatory test on the mosquitoes at the Health Department. This is the first documented West Nile virus activity in LaSalle County this year.

According to Chris Pozzi, Director of Environmental Health, “This is the time of year we expect to see West Nile virus activity increase. It is important that people be conscientious about self-protection whenever they are outside during the evening hours. In hot, dry weather, mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus breed in stagnant water and multiply rapidly. The best way to protect yourself against illness is to wear insect repellent and to get rid of any stagnant water around your home to reduce the number of mosquitoes.”

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of *Culex* mosquitoes, commonly called a house mosquito, which has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. However, four out of five people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms. In rare cases, severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

-More-

Monitoring for West Nile virus includes laboratory tests for mosquito batches, dead crows, blue jays, and robins, as well as testing humans with West Nile virus-like symptoms. People who observe a sick or dying crow, blue jay, or robin should contact the health department, which will determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

There are some simple precautions you can take to *Fight the Bite*. Precautions include practicing the three “R’s” – reduce, repel and report.

- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, pet bowls, clogged rain gutters, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.
- **REPEL** - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, old tires, stagnant pools, or other unattended water holding containers that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito eggs.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/surveillance>.

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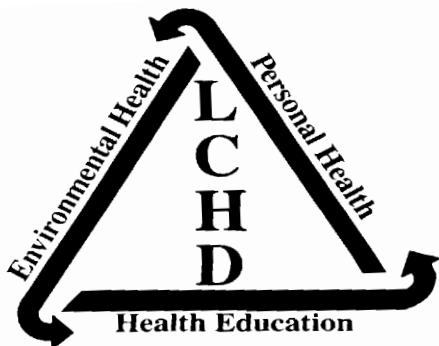
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www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth

www.lasallecounty.org

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: August 26, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“Bird Tests Positive for West Nile virus”

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department received confirmation that a crow from Utica tested positive for West Nile virus. The bird was collected and tested on August 26, 2021. Environmental Health staff was able to conduct the confirmatory test on the bird at the Health Department. Additional West Nile virus activity for 2021 includes mosquitoes that tested positive on August 25, 2021.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a *Culex pipiens* mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, which has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. However, four out of five people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms. In rare cases, severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

Monitoring for West Nile virus includes laboratory tests for mosquito batches, dead crows, blue jays, and robins, as well as testing humans with West Nile virus-like symptoms. People who observe a sick or dying crow, blue jay, or robin should contact the health department, which will determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

There are some simple precautions you can take to *Fight the Bite*. Precautions include practicing the three “R’s” – reduce, repel and report.

-More-

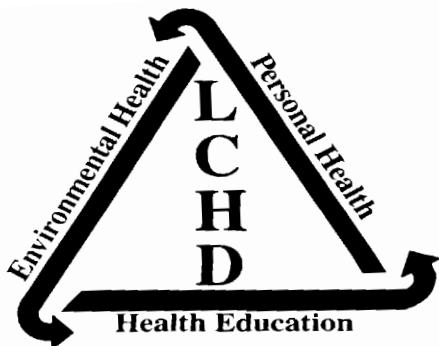
- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.
- **REPEL** - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/surveillance>.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: August 27, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“Additional Bird Tests Positive for West Nile virus”

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department received confirmation that a crow from Streator tested positive for West Nile virus. The bird was collected and tested on August 27, 2021. Environmental Health staff was able to conduct the confirmatory test on the bird at the Health Department. To date, the following West Nile virus activity has been documented for 2021:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date Collected</u>	<u>Animal/Insect</u>
OTTAWA	08/25/2021	MOSQUITOES
UTICA	08/26/2021	CROW
STREATOR	08/27/2021	CROW

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a *Culex pipiens* mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, which has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. However, four out of five people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms. In rare cases, severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

According to Chris Pozzi, Director of Environmental Health, “The number of positive test results this week indicate that the amount of virus circulating has increased considerably. In addition, the hot, dry

-More-

conditions will enable the virus to continue to thrive. We are entering the peak risk period for West Nile infections and that risk won't subside until later in the fall when we begin to experience cooler weather. I encourage everyone to check the area around their homes and empty any containers that may be holding water from the rain we received this week and to wear their insect repellent when enjoying time outdoors."

Monitoring for West Nile virus includes laboratory tests for mosquito batches, dead crows, blue jays, and robins, as well as testing humans with West Nile virus-like symptoms. People who observe a sick or dying crow, blue jay, or robin should contact the health department, which will determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

There are some simple precautions you can take to *Fight the Bite*. Precautions include practicing the three "R's" – reduce, repel and report.

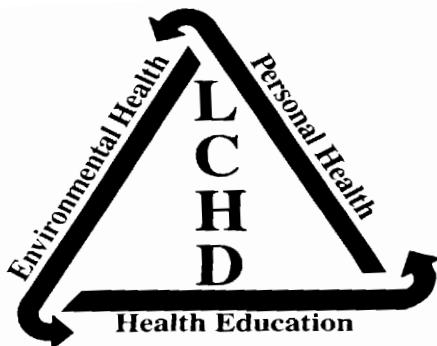
- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.
- **REPEL** - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/surveillance>.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: September 10, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“Additional Bird Tests Positive for West Nile virus”

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department received confirmation that a crow from Streator tested positive for West Nile virus. The bird was collected late in the day on September 9th and was tested this morning (9/10/21). Environmental Health staff was able to conduct the confirmatory test on the bird at the Health Department. To date, the following West Nile virus activity has been documented for 2021:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Date Collected</u>	<u>Animal/Insect</u>
OTTAWA	08/25/2021	MOSQUITOES
UTICA	08/26/2021	CROW
STREATOR	08/27/2021	CROW
STREATOR	09/09/2021	CROW

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a *Culex pipiens* mosquito, commonly called a house mosquito, which has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Common symptoms include fever, nausea, headache and muscle aches. Symptoms may last from a few days to a few weeks. However, four out of five people infected with West Nile virus will not show any symptoms. In rare cases, severe illness including meningitis or encephalitis, or even death, can occur. People older than 60 and individuals with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness from West Nile virus.

-More-

Monitoring for West Nile virus includes laboratory tests for mosquito batches, dead crows, blue jays, and robins, as well as testing humans with West Nile virus-like symptoms. People who observe a sick or dying crow, blue jay, or robin should contact the health department, which will determine if the bird will be picked up for testing.

There are some simple precautions you can take to *Fight the Bite*. Precautions include practicing the three “R’s” – reduce, repel and report.

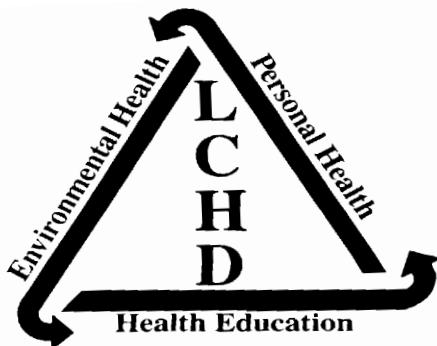
- **REDUCE** - make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut. Eliminate, or refresh each week, all sources of standing water where mosquitoes can breed, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires, and any other containers.
- **REPEL** - when outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a light colored, long-sleeved shirt, and apply an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535, according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- **REPORT** – report locations where you see water sitting stagnant for more than a week such as roadside ditches, flooded yards, and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes. The local health department or city government may be able to add larvicide to the water, which will kill any mosquito larvae.

A complete listing of West Nile virus statistics for LaSalle County is available on the Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/west-nile-virus/surveillance>.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: September 24, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Begins Flu Clinics”

The LaSalle County Health Department is urging everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated against seasonal influenza (flu). The LaSalle County Health Department has received its first shipment of flu vaccine and will begin hosting flu clinics. At this time, we do not have VFC (Vaccine for Children or CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) Flu vaccine. It has been ordered, and is expected to arrive mid to late October. This would be for children 6 months through 18 years of age who have Medicaid.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine and Influenza HD (High Dose) Vaccine for persons 65 and older will be available. All LaSalle County Health Department influenza vaccines are preservative free. The fee for the seasonal flu shot will be \$25. The fee for influenza High Dose will be \$60.

We offer insurance billing or cash only payment. Debit or credit cards **will not be accepted**. **You must have your insurance card and a Photo ID with you**. No Doctor’s order is required. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The clinic schedule will be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Vaccine Offered</u>
Thursday, September 30, 2021	9:00 am – 3:00pm	LaSalle County Health Department (Vaccination trailer in the Parking Lot)	Flu and COVID Shots Available
Tuesday, October 5, 2021	1:00 pm – 3:00pm	LaSalle County Health Department (Vaccination trailer in the Parking Lot)	Flu and COVID Shots Available
Tuesday, October 19, 2021	9:00 am – 1:00pm	Mendota Area Senior Services 1901 Tom Merwin Dr, Mendota (Located inside the Mendota Civic Center)	Flu Shots Only
Thursday, October 21, 2021	9:00 am – 1:00pm	Oglesby Elks Lodge 800 E Walnut St, Oglesby	Flu Shots Only

-More-

If you are unable to make one of our upcoming flu clinics, please call the Health Department at 815-433-3366 to schedule an appointment. In addition, if you are still in need of a COVID-19 vaccination, it is safe to receive the flu vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. The Health Department strongly encourages everyone who is eligible to receive their flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine to ensure everyone is protected as they possibly can be as we head into cold and flu season.

The flu vaccine's effectiveness varies from year to year. But for those who still get the flu, the symptoms are milder than in those who have not been immunized. Influenza HD will be given to persons 65 and older. Human immune defenses become weaker with age. Aging decreases the body's ability to have a good immune response. A higher dose of protection in the vaccine is added to give older persons a better immune response. This additional protection is intended to create a stronger immune response which will make the vaccine more effective in the elderly. To lessen your chances of developing the flu, adults and children need to practice good hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission.

One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. People who are exhibiting "flu-like" symptoms should stay home from work, out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

Remember the 3 C's: clean, cover, and contain:

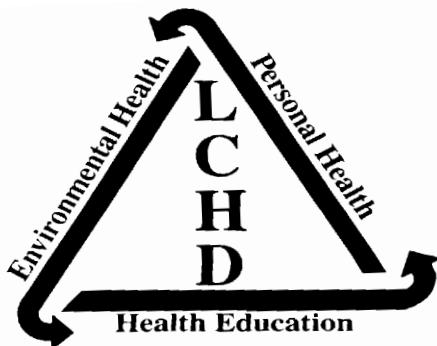
- Clean** –frequently wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- Cover** –cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain** –contain your germs by staying home if you are sick.

For additional information please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#



MEDIA RELEASE



Date: October 4, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Leslie Dougherty (ex 74314) or Jenny Barrie (ex 74315)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month”

OTTAWA, IL – October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women other than skin cancer and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for women. The good news is that most women can survive breast cancer if it's found and treated early.

A mammogram – the screening test for breast cancer – can help find breast cancer early when it's easier to treat. Low income women and women with no insurance die from breast and cervical cancer more often than other women. These high mortality rates are attributed in part to the fact that these women generally do not receive regular mammograms and Pap Smears. As a result, cancers are diagnosed at later stages when it is more difficult to treat and the chances for survival are less.

LaSalle County Health Department, through our Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program grant, can pay for mammograms and pap smears for women who qualify. You may qualify if you are a LaSalle or Grundy County resident between the ages of 21-64 for breast and cervical cancer screenings. Through IBCCP, LaSalle County Health Department is working to increase breast and cervical cancer awareness and break that cycle of late stage treatment. IBCCP provides FREE mammograms and Pap Smears for those women who qualify and assistance with paying the deductible for those who are insured. Take advantage of this opportunity for early detection. You are important to your family.

For those women who do not qualify for the IBCCP program or have related charges not covered by the IBCCP grant there are a limited amount of community donated funds to assist with those services. Call (815) 433-3366 for further information on how to receive a free mammogram and pap test.

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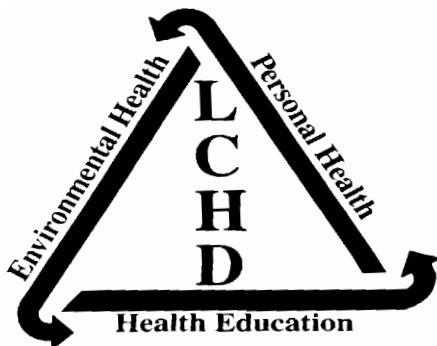
www.facebook.com/LaSalleCountyHealth



www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth

www.lasallecounty.org

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: October 5, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“Walk-In Flu Vaccination Available this Week – No Appointment Needed”

Ottawa, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department is offering walk-in flu vaccinations this week. Flu vaccines will be available:

- Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 7, 2021 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 8, 2021 12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

The Health Department is located at 717 Etna Rd., Ottawa. Flu vaccinations will be given in the Vaccination Trailer (**look for the orange sign**), which is located next to the COVID Testing Trailer and is in the Health Department's parking lot.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine and Influenza HD (High Dose) Vaccine for persons 65 and older are available. In addition, VFC (Vaccine for Children or CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Flu vaccine is available. This would be for children 6 months through 18 years of age who have Medicaid.

All LaSalle County Health Department influenza vaccines are preservative free. The fee for the seasonal flu shot will be \$25. The fee for influenza High Dose will be \$60.

We offer insurance billing or cash only payment. Debit or credit cards **will not be accepted**. **You must have your insurance card and a Photo ID with you**. No Doctor's order is required. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please wear a mask.

In addition the walk-in flu vaccination clinics being available at the LaSalle County Health Department, the following clinics are scheduled in the community:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Vaccine Offered</u>
Tuesday, October 19, 2021	9:00 am – 1:00pm	Mendota Area Senior Services 1901 Tom Merwin Dr, Mendota (Located inside the Mendota Civic Center)	Flu Shots Only
Thursday, October 21, 2021	9:00 am – 1:00pm	Oglesby Elks Lodge 800 E Walnut St, Oglesby	Flu Shots Only

If you are still in need of a COVID-19 vaccination, it is safe to receive the flu vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. **However, all COVID-19 vaccinations must be scheduled. Please call the Health Department at 815-433-3366 to make an appointment.** The Health Department strongly encourages everyone who is eligible to receive their flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine to ensure everyone is protected as they possibly can be as we head into cold and flu season.

To lessen your chances of developing the flu, adults and children need to practice good hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. People who are exhibiting “flu-like” symptoms should stay home from work, out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

Remember the 3 C's: clean, cover, and contain:

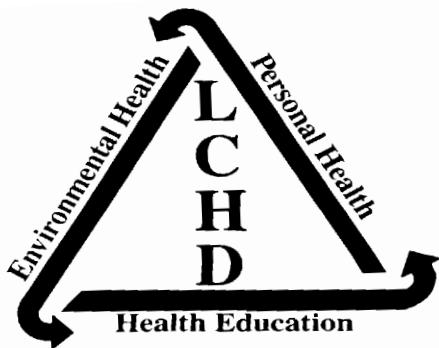
- Clean** –frequently wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- Cover** –cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain** –contain your germs by staying home if you are sick.

For additional information please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#



MEDIA RELEASE



Date: October 15, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“Walk-In Flu Vaccination Available Next Week – No Appointment Needed”

Ottawa, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department is offering walk-in flu vaccinations next week. Flu vaccines will be available:

• Monday, October 18, 2021	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
• Tuesday, October 19, 2021	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
• Wednesday, October 20, 2021	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
• Thursday, October 21, 2021	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
• Friday, October 22, 2021	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

The Health Department is located at 717 Etna Rd., Ottawa. Flu vaccinations will be given in the ***Vaccination Trailer (look for the orange sign)***, which is located next to the COVID Testing Trailer and is in the Health Department's parking lot.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine and Influenza HD (High Dose) Vaccine for persons 65 and older are available. In addition, VFC (Vaccine for Children or CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) Flu vaccine is available. This would be for children 6 months through 18 years of age who have Medicaid.

All LaSalle County Health Department influenza vaccines are preservative free. The fee for the seasonal flu shot will be \$25. The fee for influenza High Dose will be \$60.

We offer insurance billing or cash only payment. Debit or credit cards **will not be accepted**. **You must have your insurance card and a Photo ID with you**. No Doctor's order is required. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please wear a mask.

In addition, the walk-in flu vaccination clinics being available at the LaSalle County Health Department, the following clinics are scheduled in the community:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Vaccine Offered</u>
Tuesday, October 19, 2021	9:00 am – 1:00pm	Mendota Area Senior Services 1901 Tom Merwin Dr, Mendota (Located inside the Mendota Civic Center)	Flu Shots Only
Thursday, October 21, 2021	9:00 am – 1:00pm	Oglesby Elks Lodge 800 E Walnut St, Oglesby	Flu Shots Only

-More-

If you are still in need of a COVID-19 vaccination, it is safe to receive the flu vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. **However, all COVID-19 vaccinations must be scheduled. Please call the Health Department at 815-433-3366 to make an appointment.** The Health Department strongly encourages everyone who is eligible to receive their flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine to ensure everyone is protected as they possibly can be as we head into cold and flu season.

To lessen your chances of developing the flu, adults and children need to practice good hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. People who are exhibiting “flu-like” symptoms should stay home from work, out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

Remember the 3 C's: clean, cover, and contain:

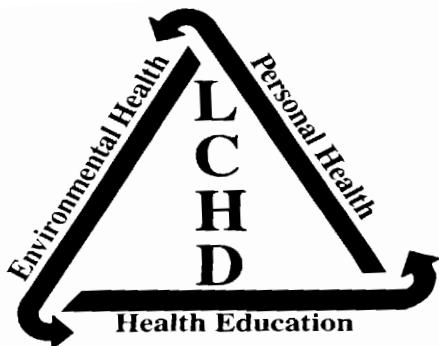
- Clean** –frequently wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- Cover** –cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain** –contain your germs by staying home if you are sick.

For additional information please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: October 25, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“Walk-In Flu Vaccination Clinic for Children”

Ottawa, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department is offering a children’s walk-in flu vaccination clinic on Thursday, October 28th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. The Health Department is located at 717 Etna Rd., Ottawa.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine, VFC (Vaccine for Children or CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) Flu vaccine will be available. This would be for children 6 months through 18 years of age who have Medicaid.

All LaSalle County Health Department influenza vaccines are preservative free. The fee for the seasonal flu shot will be \$25.

We offer insurance billing or cash only payment. Debit or credit cards **will not be accepted**. **You must have your insurance card and a Photo ID with you**. No Doctor’s order is required. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please wear a mask.

To lessen your chances of developing the flu, adults and children need to practice good hygiene measures. Teach the importance of covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and educate children about hand to mucous membrane transmission. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your children is through frequent and thorough hand washing. People who are exhibiting “flu-like” symptoms should stay home from work, out of childcare and school to minimize transmission.

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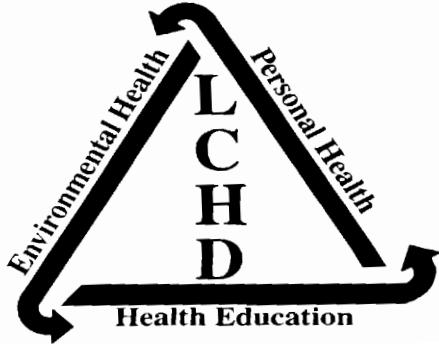
- Clean** –frequently wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- Cover** –cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain** –contain your germs by staying home if you are sick.

For additional information please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

#



MEDIA RELEASE



Date: October 25, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Offers Booster Doses of Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson"

On October 21, 2021, the CDC expanded eligibility for COVID-19 booster shots in certain populations. LaSalle County Health Department will begin offering booster doses on a weekly basis, by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment for a booster dose vaccination please visit our website www.lasallecounty.org and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccine Information" icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment for a booster dose of Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.

For individuals who received a **Pfizer** or **Moderna** vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at **six months or more** after their initial series:

- ▶ 65 years and older
- ▶ Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- ▶ Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- ▶ Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

For individuals who received the **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine, booster shots are recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated **two or more months ago**.

Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received and others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

In addition, we will continue to give additional doses (3rd doses) to individuals who are considered severely immunocompromised. If you are still in need of this 3rd dose, you should call the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 to schedule an appointment.

Important Things to Remember:

- You **MUST** have your vaccination record card for your appointment.
- If you do not have it, please visit IDPH Vax Verify at:
https://idphportal.illinois.gov/s/?language=en_US to get a copy of your vaccination record.

Day of Appointment Instructions:

- ✓ If you do not feel well the day of your appointment, do not come to the vaccination clinic.
- ✓ **Please arrive at your scheduled appointment time.**
- ✓ The Health Department is located at 717 Etna Rd., Ottawa. COVID-19 booster vaccinations will be given in the Vaccination Trailer (look for the yellow sign), which is located next to the COVID Testing Trailer and is in the Health Department's parking lot.
- ✓ All attendees will need to wear a face covering.
- ✓ All attendees must follow instructions and maintain social distancing. Please stay 6ft. apart when waiting in line.
- ✓ If the patient is under the age of 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- ✓ **PLEASE BRING:**
 - ✓ Bring a copy of your printed ticket or a screenshot of the ticket on your phone.
 - ✓ Bring your vaccination record card
- You **MUST** have an APPOINTMENT to get vaccinated. Absolutely **NO walk-ins**; you will be turned away and asked to leave.
- If you need assistance, please bring someone with you. Otherwise, we ask that only people receiving the vaccine come to the clinic.
- Individuals should wear clothing to allow easy access to the upper portion of the arm for injection.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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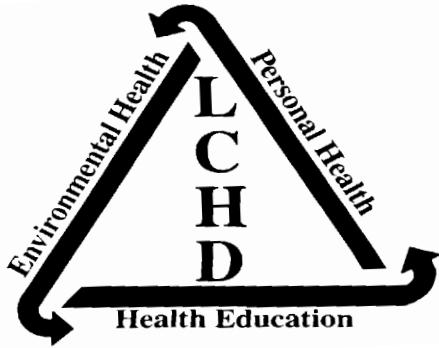


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www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: November 3, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Offers Pfizer Vaccine for Children”

On November 2, 2021, the CDC endorsed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation that children 5 to 11 years old be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Pfizer BioNTech pediatric vaccine. The vaccine for children ages 5 through 11 years is a smaller dose (10 micrograms{ μ g}). This is a third of the dose given for individuals 12 years and older. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is administered as a series of two doses, 3 weeks apart, for all eligible individuals. LaSalle County Health Department will begin offering the vaccine for children on a weekly basis, **by appointment only**.

To schedule an appointment for a child vaccination please visit our website www.lasallecounty.org and click on the “COVID-19 Vaccine Information” icon. There you will find a link to schedule an appointment for a child dose of Pfizer.

Important Things to Remember:

- If the patient is under the age of 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Day of Appointment Instructions:

- If you do not feel well the day of your appointment, do not come to the vaccination clinic.
- **Please arrive at your scheduled appointment time.**
- The Health Department is located at 717 Etna Rd., Ottawa. COVID-19 child vaccinations will be given inside the Health Department.
- All attendees will need to wear a face covering.
- All attendees must follow instructions and maintain social distancing. Please stay 6ft. apart when waiting in line.
- **PLEASE BRING:**
 - ✓ Bring a copy of your printed ticket or a screenshot of the ticket on your phone.

- You **MUST** have an APPOINTMENT to get vaccinated. Absolutely **NO walk-ins**; you will be turned away and asked to leave.
- If you need assistance, please bring someone with you. Otherwise, we ask that only people receiving the vaccine come to the clinic.
- Individuals should wear clothing to allow easy access to the upper portion of the arm for injection.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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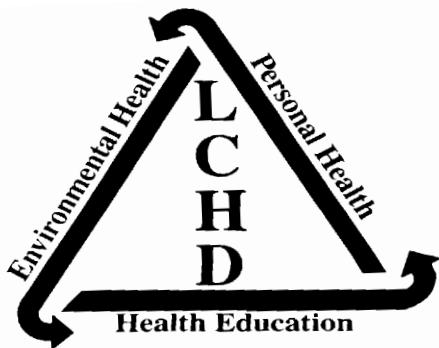


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www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: November 17, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Leslie Dougherty (ex.74314) or Jenny Barrie (ex.74315)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

“ GREAT AMERICAN SMOKE OUT ”

OTTAWA, IL -- This years Great American Smoke Out is Thursday, November 18th. The Great American Smoke Out is sponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and celebrated the third Thursday each November. This annual event challenges smokers to quit for at least 1 day with the hopes that they will quit permanently.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to encourage everyone to join in on the campaign against smoking, which is the most preventable cause of death in the United States today. Smoking is associated with increased risk for cancers of the mouth, nasal cavities, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, liver, cervix, kidney, bladder, and myeloid leukemia. And yet according to the CDC about 34 million Americans still smoke.

The Great American Smoke Out is an upbeat effort to encourage smokers to give up cigarettes for 24 hours, if only to prove to themselves that they can. Quitting smoking has immediate and long-term benefits, including reduced risk for heart disease and certain cancers. For help in quitting you can contact the Illinois Department of Public Health’s Quit line at 1-866-QUIT-YES that’s 1-866-784-8937. Every day thousands are leaving the pack behind. Now it is your turn to do the same. For more information on how to quit smoking or for some quit tips please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366. Or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Date: November 22, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Expands Booster Doses of Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson to 18 and up"

On November 19, 2021, the CDC expanded eligibility for COVID-19 booster shots for all individuals 18 years of age and older. LaSalle County Health Department will begin offering booster doses on a weekly basis, by appointment only.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), following the Food and Drug Administration's decision to open COVID-19 booster shots to all, is recommending anyone 18 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose six months after receiving their second Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, or two months after receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

To schedule an appointment for a booster dose vaccination please visit our website www.lasallecounty.org and click on the "COVID-19 Vaccine Information" icon. There you will find links to schedule an appointment for a booster dose of Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.

Important Things to Remember:

- You **MUST** have your vaccination record card for your appointment.
- If you do not have it, please visit IDPH Vax Verify at: https://idphportal.illinois.gov/s/?language=en_US to get a copy of your vaccination record.

Day of Appointment Instructions:

- ✓ If you do not feel well the day of your appointment, do not come to the vaccination clinic.
- ✓ **Please arrive at your scheduled appointment time.**
- ✓ The Health Department is located at 717 Etna Rd., Ottawa. COVID-19 booster vaccinations will be given in the Vaccination Trailer (look for the yellow sign), which is located next to the COVID Testing Trailer and is in the Health Department's parking lot.
- ✓ All attendees will need to wear a face covering.

- ✓ All attendees must follow instructions and maintain social distancing. Please stay 6ft. apart when waiting in line.
- ✓ If the patient is under the age of 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- ✓ **PLEASE BRING:**
 - ✓ Bring a copy of your printed ticket or a screenshot of the ticket on your phone.
 - ✓ Bring your vaccination record card
- You **MUST** have an APPOINTMENT to get vaccinated.
- If you need assistance, please bring someone with you. Otherwise, we ask that only people receiving the vaccine come to the clinic.
- Individuals should wear clothing to allow easy access to the upper portion of the arm for injection.

For additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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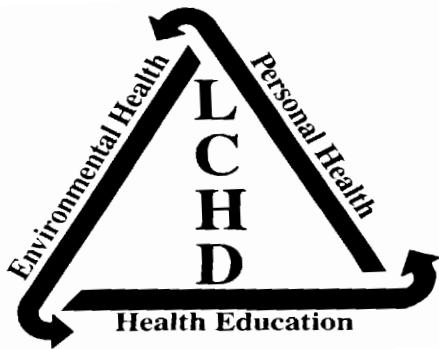


www.facebook.com/LaSalleCountyHealth



www.twitter.com/LaSalleCoHealth

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: December 10, 2021
To: All Media
From: LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
Contact: Jenny Barrie (ext. 74315)
Leslie Dougherty (ext. 74314)
Phone: (815) 433-3366
For Immediate Release

"LaSalle County Health Department Experiencing High Volume of Calls and Delays"

Due to the high number of new cases being reported and the large volume of phone calls coming into our department, the LaSalle County Health Department (LCHD) would like to inform the public we are currently experiencing delays. We thank you for your patience and are handling the influx as quickly as possible.

The Health Department would like to remind all employers and school officials that **it is not necessary to have a release letter** from individuals in order for them to re-enter the work force or school. At this stage in the pandemic, the guidelines are as follows:

Positive Test Result -- Must be excluded for a minimum of 10 days following onset date if symptomatic or date of COVID-19 test if asymptomatic.

If the individual is symptomatic, they must be fever-free for at least 24 hours and other symptoms have improved.

Close Contact -- Anyone who has had close contact (someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more) with someone with COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days after their last exposure to that person, except if they meet the following conditions:

Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19 does not need to quarantine. However, fully vaccinated close contacts should:

- Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result.
- Get tested 5-7 days after close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Get tested and isolate immediately if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

In conclusion, vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission, and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging. LaSalle County Health Department urges everyone 5 years and older to get vaccinated and all eligible individuals to get a booster. People should continue to take the recommended public health precautions – vaccinate, booster, wear a mask, avoid crowds, physically distance, stay home when you are sick, and test.

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Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

IDPH has adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on shortening isolation and quarantine periods for COVID-19 for the general public as of December 30, 2021.

CDC announced on [December 27, 2021](#) a reduction in the isolation periods for individuals with COVID-19 and a reduction in the quarantine period for those who are close contacts to someone with COVID-19. Schools should continue to follow the [IDPH COVID-19 School Guidance](#) for children who have received the primary vaccination series and are not eligible for booster doses after 6 months. Health care personnel and other specific groups and settings should continue to follow their respective guidance (see additional resources below). Guidance applicable to specific settings are currently being revised.

Reduction in Isolation Period for Those Testing Positive for COVID-19

- Everyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should stay masked when around others for 10 days following onset of symptoms, or if no symptoms for 10 days following date of positive test.
- Everyone who tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate for 5 days after onset of symptoms, or 5 days after date of positive test if no symptoms are present
- If the case has no symptoms or their symptoms have resolved after 5 days, they are released from isolation after 5 days. They should continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.



JB Pritzker, Governor

Ngozi O. Ezike, MD,

Reduction in Quarantine Period if You are a Close Contact to Someone with COVID-19

If you: Are eligible for boosting and have been boosted ¹ OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna within the last 6 months OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months	Wear a mask around others for 10 days Test on day 5, if possible If a person develops symptoms, they should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19
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If you: Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR Are unvaccinated	Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days Test on day 5, if possible If a person develops symptoms, they should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not caused by COVID-19
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¹ Children who have received the primary vaccination series and are not eligible for booster doses after 6 months should not be excluded from school after close contact unless they develop symptoms and test positive for COVID-19.

Additional Resources

General public: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

Health Care Workers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html>

Correctional facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/correction-detention/guidance-correctional-detention.html?deliveryName=DM26232>