



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE FOR  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Kalamazoo County COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

*Additional residents eligible in coming weeks, new scheduling processes announced*

Kalamazoo, MI – The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is reporting that healthcare partners such as hospitals, federally qualified health centers, pharmacies, and local public health departments have administered 97,273 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Kalamazoo County residents. This represents 29.1% of residents over the age of 16 who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to date.

Recently, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) made several announcements [expanding eligibility for COVID-19 vaccinations](#). Adults over the age of fifty became eligible as of March 8. Beginning March 22, individuals over the age of 16 with disabilities or medical conditions will be eligible. All Michiganders age 16 and up will be eligible to receive a vaccination beginning April 5. Despite this expanded eligibility, vaccination efforts in Kalamazoo County will continue to prioritize residents based on highest risk, including older adults, those with underlying medical conditions, and frontline workers.

Due to the eligibility expansion by MDHHS, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will no longer maintain a pre-registration process or a “waitlist” for Phase 1A, Phase 1B, and those 65 years or older. Rather, the health department has introduced an online self-scheduling tool for Kalamazoo County residents who are eligible to make appointments for upcoming clinics.

“While vaccine supplies are increasing, we want people to understand that everyone who is now eligible may not be able to schedule a vaccine appointment immediately,” says Jim Rutherford, Health Officer of Kalamazoo County. “Currently all vaccination clinics require a vaccine appointment. We continue to ask our community to have patience as we expand eligibility and move as quickly as we can with the vaccine supply received. It will take time, but we are working quickly to administer vaccine to our community.”

Appointment scheduling process for **people over the age 65:**

- Kalamazoo County residents over the age of 65 continue to be prioritized for vaccination. The health department reserves special appointment slots at upcoming clinics for this age group. If you are 65 or older and have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine and wish to do so, call the health department’s COVID-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200 to schedule your appointment.

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**HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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Phone: 269.373.5200 | [www.kalcounty.com/hcs](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs)

Appointment scheduling process for **people over the age 50 and people over the age of 16 with disabilities or medical conditions:**

- Starting March 22, people over the age of 50 and people over the age of 16 with disabilities or medical conditions may use the online self-scheduling system. Appointments are released on Mondays at 7am, 12pm and 5pm at [www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine). Residents with limited internet access are encouraged to call the COVID-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200 for assistance in scheduling appointments. Please note, those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the clinic.

Appointment scheduling process for **caregivers of individuals with special needs:**

- Caregivers of individuals with special needs can now pre-register on the waitlist form at [www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine). You will receive an invite to schedule your vaccine from the health department by email or phone. If you provide an email address, please make sure the email is entered correctly and you check it regularly.

Appointment scheduling process for **Phase 1A and Phase 1B:**

- Phase 1A and Phase 1B workers are continuing to be prioritized with the limited vaccine supply received until eligibility is expanded to all Michiganders age 16 and older on April 5.

As vaccine prioritization guidance evolves and more Michiganders become eligible, the scheduling process and strategy is subject to change.

With our healthcare systems, Ascension Borgess, Bronson Health Care, Family Health Center, and WMed Health, equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccine remains the focus of the joint vaccination strategy in Kalamazoo County. All organizations continue to collaborate to ensure vaccinations are provided in a variety of geographic locations throughout Kalamazoo County and at a variety of community locations including senior centers, churches, schools, homeless shelters, and those in congregate living situations.

**Important points:**

- The most up-to-date information is at [www.kalcounty.com/covid19](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19) and [www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS). The health department will notify the public via press releases, social media and website updates as information changes.
- All eligible residents are also encouraged to explore vaccination through other vaccine providers in the area, including Meijer Pharmacy and Rite Aid Pharmacies.
- Vaccination is by appointment only. Do NOT show up at the health department or any vaccination site without an appointment.
- Kalamazoo County Government's website can be converted to Spanish, Arabic and French. On any county website, in the top right-hand corner under the social media icons, you will see "Translate". Click on this and select the language you wish to translate the page to. The pre-registration waitlist form will also translate to this language.
- Please reserve phone calls for those who cannot easily access online information. The health department's COVID-19 Call Center is 269-373-5200.

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