



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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Kalamazoo County health officer speaks one-on-one with President Biden during Pfizer visit

Jim Rutherford has directed Kalamazoo County's COVID-19 response since day one

PORTAGE, Mich. — Kalamazoo County Health Officer **Jim Rutherford** spoke one-on-one with President Joe Biden during his visit to Portage today to tour Pfizer's plant. Rutherford briefed Biden on the county's efforts to vaccinate residents and its overall response to the pandemic.

"It was an honor to meet with President Biden during his tour of Pfizer's facility and brief him on Kalamazoo County's response to the pandemic and on how administering the COVID-19 vaccine is going for the county," Rutherford said. "We're proud to have a safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine produced right here in Kalamazoo County by Pfizer and this groundbreaking vaccine will be shared with the world as we look to a return to normal."

As health officer, Rutherford has been directing Kalamazoo County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic since day one, sharing critical, life-saving health guidance with the public. He is also overseeing the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Kalamazoo County, which includes ensuring those over the age of 65, first responders, doctors and nurses, and educators have access to the vaccine.

"I want to thank President Biden for taking time to tour the Pfizer plant in Portage and to see firsthand the amazing things Pfizer and its employees are doing for Kalamazoo County, the State of Michigan and the rest of the country," said Kalamazoo County Administrator **Tracie Moored**. "Kalamazoo County is home to innovators like Pfizer and thanks to their COVID-19 vaccine development we are on display for the world to see."

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

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