



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON 01/04/2021**

**SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT (308-436-6636)**

**COVID-19 Vaccinations Continue With Registration Available for Scotts Bluff County Residents Age 75 and Older**

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY – On Friday, Jan. 1, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts elevated individuals ages 75+ priority status to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

In accordance with state and federal recommendations, the vaccine is being distributed in waves throughout the Nebraska panhandle, pending vaccine availability. Phase 1A distribution includes healthcare workers, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) employees, and long term care facility residents and staff.

Phase 1B includes those 75 and older, first responders, the education sector, food and agriculture, corrections staff, utilities and transportation, US postal workers, grocery store employees, and funeral directors.

Phase 1C include people 65 through 74 years of age, people with high-risk medical conditions, and congregate living (prison population, colleges/universities).

Vaccine for the general public (Phase 2) will be available May through October. The timeline is an estimate and phases are subject to change.

People age 75 and older who would like to register to receive a COVID-19 vaccine are asked to call 308-262-5764 or 308-633-2866 ext. 101 and leave a message with their name, date of birth, county of residence, and phone number, OR complete a form at <https://tinyurl.com/ycpxzr5d>. You can also call the Scotts Bluff County Health Department at 308-436-6636. The registration will put you on a waiting list and you will be contacted in the next few weeks when more vaccines are available.

“Vaccine ability is based on when the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) allocates more vaccines to be sent to local health departments and their partners,” said Paulette Schnell, Scotts Bluff County Health Director. “We urge people who are 75 and older to sign up or help your loved ones sign up today.”

“The vaccine is the first key step in slowing the spread, but we are still encouraging everyone to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by social distancing, regular hand washing, wearing a mask in public, and self-monitoring for symptoms,” said Schnell.

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