

To our Kearny County Community:

Good news! We have been able to move back to County Alert Level 2 again as of this week. With the release of a third vaccine from J&J this week, vaccine availability should continue to improve over the next weeks and months. What vaccine should you get? The first one available to you. Similar to the theme of so much of our education over the past year, here are 2 reasons that you should be vaccinated:

1. Protect you: COVID-19 is a potentially life-threatening infection. Carefully done studies show that COVID-19 has a much higher case fatality rate than influenza, and while advanced age is the leading risk factor for severe disease, young people can also become severely ill. In addition, some people even with moderate illness, who do not require hospitalization, have significant symptoms that may persist for weeks or months, including fatigue, shortness of breath, palpitations, chest pain, difficulty concentrating, and “brain fog.”
2. Protect others: People with COVID-19 are highly infectious during the early phases of their illness, and can readily transmit the infection to others. By contrast, it is highly likely that immunization will reduce the risk of viral transmission. So while we can't conclude that immunization eliminates this risk yet (which is why we still recommend masks and social distancing when possible at this point), the scientific evidence strongly points to vaccines reducing this risk, making all of us safer.

The end message: please get vaccinated. The waiting list is now open to any eligible Kearny County resident. If you are 18 years or older, please call the Health Department at 620-355-4003 to get on the waiting list for the COVID-19 vaccine. Let's continue to work together to eliminate COVID-19 from Kearny County.

Stay healthy,



Drew Miller, MD, FAAFP
Kearny County Health Officer