



## Knox County Health Department

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### **Knox County Launches COVID-19 Online Vaccine Appointment System**

*Knoxville, Tenn.* – The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is announcing a new [online registration system](#) for COVID-19 vaccine appointments for health care workers, first responders, those 75 and older and others that fall within the first priority groups. The system – which is currently operational – will be used to schedule 975 appointments for next Friday, Jan. 22. Appointments are expected to fill up quickly.

The Health Department has been notified by the state that additional vaccine will be arriving this week. That shipment will be used to vaccinate those filling the 975 appointments.

Additional first-dose vaccine opportunities are expected to be announced in the coming days when KCHD receives more vaccine.

It is important to note that this scheduling system is different from the online COVID-19 vaccine scheduling tool announced last week by the Tennessee Department of Health, which is for scheduling vaccine appointments in the 89 non-metro counties.

When accessing the scheduling website, residents will be asked to verify they meet current eligibility requirements prior to scheduling an appointment. After reviewing eligibility requirements, individuals will see vaccine clinic locations, schedule blocks and available appointments within those blocks. From there, selecting the appointment and providing necessary personal information will work just as a number of other common appointment scheduling sites work.

At their appointment, individuals will be required to verify their employment (with a work badge that shows a name and/or photo) or age (with a legal form of personal identification, like a drivers' license or passport) before the vaccine is administered.

“Our goal is to get vaccines to our community as quickly as we can and this online platform will help us do that,” said Senior Director and Public Health Officer Dr. Martha Buchanan. “We know this is something that will both simplify the scheduling of vaccination appointments and alleviate some of the call volume to our Public Information Line.”

Those without internet or computer access can still make appointments by calling the KCHD Public Information Line (865-215-5555). KCHD is working to increase call center capacity. More information will be available next week.



To date, the Health Department has distributed approximately 4,000 of the 4,700 vaccines received from the State. The rest of the doses are scheduled to be administered this week. KCHD updates vaccine distribution data once a week on the Health Department's vaccination [page](#). These vaccines are in addition to thousands of other vaccines being distributed in the community by local hospitals as well as those by corporate pharmacies for long-term care facility employees and residents.

The State of Tennessee is among the most successful states in the country at quickly administering vaccine and Knox County is an active part of that.

Additional second-dose vaccines—separate from the 975 first-dose vaccines—are expected to arrive this week as well. Clinics will be held specifically for those needing second-dose vaccinations from the Health Department. KCHD officials will be in contact with those who qualify to inform them of the opportunities to complete vaccination.

As residents wait for their opportunity to be vaccinated it is critical that everyone continues to utilize the Five Core Actions: wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, keep at least six feet of distance from anyone not in your household, sanitize high-touch surfaces and wear a mask.

**About Knox County Health Department:**

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD's broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

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