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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN BAY COUNTY ANNOUNCES WEEK TWO SENIOR VACCINATION PLANS



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**Panama City, FL**— Additional appointments for COVID-19 vaccine for seniors age 65 and older are now available online at <http://bit.ly/bayseniorvaccination>. Online registration will help avoid long wait times on the phone, dropped calls and busy signals due to high demand. People who are not in this priority population for vaccination are asked to assist family members, friends or neighbors who may need help with online registration.

Seniors who do not have internet access, have difficulty using the internet or who have no one to assist them with online registration may call the Florida Department of Health Bay County (DOH-Bay) at (850) 872-4455. DOH-Bay's hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

DOH-Bay's vaccination goal for the week of January 11 is 1,000 doses. Additional online appointments will be added next week based on available supply.

"In every situation you look closely at procedures to identify areas for improvement," Sandon S. Speedling, MHS, CPM, CPH, Administrator and Health Officer for DOH-Bay, said. "Now that we have a few days of vaccination behind us, we have identified ways to increase our capacity."

Speedling asks that the public remember that **there are tens of thousands of people trying to register at this time for a limited number of vaccines.**

"This is a historic mass vaccination effort," he said. "It is going to take some time to vaccinate everyone who wants to be vaccinated. Your patience and understanding are essential and appreciated."

Consent forms for the Moderna vaccine are available at [Bay.FloridaHealth.gov](http://Bay.FloridaHealth.gov) or [BayHealthCOVID19.org](http://BayHealthCOVID19.org). Those making an appointment are encouraged to review the consent information, and if they answer 'yes' to any of the screening questions, consult with their healthcare provider before receiving the vaccine. If possible, please print and complete the consent form and bring it to the vaccination appointment. Anyone who has allergic reactions that require an epi pen should bring it to the appointment.

### COVID-19 Vaccines for Healthcare Providers

DOH-Bay is also working to provide vaccine to frontline healthcare workers who are not affiliated with a hospital. Please complete the [COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Survey](#) if not receiving the vaccine from a parent company or hospital. Providers should coordinate to ensure that there is only one reply per organization.

### COVID-19 Vaccine General Information

While the COVID-19 vaccine is a monumental step toward getting this disease under control in Florida, the department continues to encourage common-sense precautions against the spread of the virus, including frequent hand washing, wearing face masks, maintaining six feet of social distancing and staying home when sick.

A total of 1,461 Bay County residents have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. One person has completed the vaccine series. As additional vaccine supplies become available and the State provides priority groups for vaccinating, DOH-Bay will follow and share those plans on our website at [Bay.FloridaHealth.gov](http://Bay.FloridaHealth.gov) and through the Alert Bay system by texting 'BayHealth' to 888777 or visiting [bit.ly/bayhealthalert](http://bit.ly/bayhealthalert). For the most current information on COVID-19 vaccination plans in Florida, please visit <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/covid-19-vaccines-in-florida/>.

## **COVID-19 Testing**

To reach maximum capacity for COVID-19 vaccination, DOH-Bay is temporarily suspending testing for COVID-19. If you need a COVID-19 test, please check with your healthcare provider first. Please visit [Bay.FloridaHealth.gov](http://Bay.FloridaHealth.gov) for testing options or see the information below on testing provided by Bay County.

### *Bay County Testing*

Lynn Haven Sports Park, 2201 Recreation Drive

Panama City Sports Park, 50 Chip Seal Parkway

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Criteria: Testing is available to adults over 18 and children ages 5 and up who are accompanied by an adult.

Cost: Free

Test Type: Antigen (rapid in 20 minutes) and PCR

*Appointment required.* To make an appointment, visit [BayHealthCOVID19.org](http://BayHealthCOVID19.org).

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About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @HealthyFla. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).