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For Immediate Release: Friday, February 12, 2021

Guidance on Qualifying Health Conditions

As the Cayuga County Health Department prepares to start vaccinating residents who have one or more qualifying health conditions, we wanted to inform the public of what information we need from each person in order to receive a vaccination at our clinics.

At this time, the Cayuga County Health Department will require any individual who has qualifying health condition to provide documentation that they are in fact eligible to receive vaccine. The eligibility documentation can be in the form of:

- a note on the health care provider's letterhead (including patient name, date of birth and list their health conditions that qualifies them)
- a visit summary note w/ health conditions listed, summary note must be from a visit within the past twelve months
- or a print off from the electronic health record portal with the necessary information

No individual will be allowed to receive the vaccine without qualifying documentation. The Health Department will be keeping the qualifying documentation for auditing purposes.

If you are 65 years of age or older, your age makes you eligible to receive the vaccine at a local pharmacy or state vaccination site, but not at a health department clinic. **In order to attend a health department clinic if you are 65 years of age or older, you must also have a qualifying health condition and a note from your health care provider.**

The Cayuga County Health Department does not know how many doses we will be receiving for those with qualifying health conditions. Depending on when the vaccine is delivered and how much is received will determine when a clinic is scheduled.

We are asking that you begin contacting your health care provider to get the paperwork process started. We expect to have more information on clinic dates and times and now to go about making appointment early next week.

As a reminder, beginning February 15, 2021, adult New Yorkers of any age (18 years +) with the following conditions qualify for the vaccine:

- Cancer (current or in remission, including 9/11-related cancers)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Pulmonary Disease, including but not limited to, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma (moderate-to-severe), pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, and 9/11 related pulmonary diseases



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- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities including Down Syndrome
 - Heart conditions, including but not limited to heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, or hypertension (high blood pressure)
 - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) including but not limited to solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, use of other immune weakening medicines, or other causes
 - Severe Obesity (BMI 40 kg/m²), Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²)
 - Pregnancy
 - Sickle cell disease or Thalassemia
 - Type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus
 - Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
 - Neurologic conditions including but not limited to Alzheimer's Disease or dementia
 - Liver disease
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