



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Douglas County Unified Command announces plan to begin Phase 2 vaccinations**

**LAWRENCE** – With Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly announcing today that Kansas counties can proceed to Phase 2 under the state’s COVID-19 vaccination plan, Douglas County Unified Command leaders announced plans to begin vaccinating residents 65 and older, including with the first public vaccine clinic scheduled for Jan. 29 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

“This is all dependent on the availability of doses of the vaccine. Given the large population who would qualify under Phase 2, we expect it will take several weeks to vaccinate everyone in this phase, so we continue to ask for patience from our community members,” said Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Director Dan Partridge. “That said, we are excited to make progress on vaccinating those health care workers and others who qualify under Phase 1 and proceed into Phase 2, including to begin to vaccinate those 65 and older who are most vulnerable to COVID-19.”

The first public vaccination drive-through clinic by appointment is scheduled for Jan. 29 at the Community Indoor Arena, 1930 Harper St. Douglas County residents 65 and older can schedule an appointment online. One appointment per person 65+ is needed, and upon booking a time, you will receive detailed instructions on what to bring. Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health has about 500 appointments available throughout the day. If we receive more vaccine doses before Jan. 29, we will add appointment times and announce when they are available.

“Our partners at LMH Health and Heartland Community Health Center will continue to finish Phase 1 vaccinations as we move to Phase 2,” Partridge said. “As our confidence grows in vaccine supply, LMH Health and Heartland will transition to support the Phase 2 vaccination effort.”

“There is a population of tens of thousands to vaccinate in Phase 2, so it will take several weeks to vaccinate members of this group,” said Business Systems Analyst Charlie Bryan, chair of the Vaccination Planning Unit of Unified Command. “Because residents 65 and older are more likely to experience higher-risk complications of COVID-19, we are starting with vaccinating this group in Phase 2 in our community.”

For those who aren’t able to schedule an appointment as part of the first Phase 2 open clinic on Jan. 29, register for alerts at [dgcoks.org/emails](https://dgcoks.org/emails) to be notified of enrollment for future clinics.

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health and Unified Command partners are also working with organizations who employ high-contact critical workers, including teachers, to plan on how to deliver vaccinations to that group in the future when doses are available.

[Phase 2 of the state's vaccination plan](#) includes:

- Persons Aged 65+
- Congregate setting — anyone living or working in licensed congregate settings and other special care or congregate environment
  - Examples:
    - Firefighters, police officers, first responders, correction officers
    - Grocery store workers and food services
    - K-12 and childcare workers, including teachers, custodians, drivers and other staff
    - Food processing, including meat processing plants
    - Large-scale aviation manufacturing plants
    - Transportation workers
    - Workers in the following industries, if they regularly need to be in high-risk settings to perform their duties:
      - Retail, warehouses and sales outlets
      - Agriculture
      - Supply of critical services or materials for the COVID response (e.g. PPE)
      - The U.S. Postal Service
      - Department of Motor Vehicles
- High-contact critical workers — anyone providing critical services who are at a higher risk of being infected, because their jobs require consistent and close contact with a large number of individuals
  - Examples:
    - Homeless shelters and other homeless housing settings and dwelling places
    - Congregate childcare institutions, adult and child protective services
    - Emergency shelters or safe houses for victims of domestic violence
    - Corrections facilities, including jails and juvenile justice facilities
    - Behavioral Health institutions (including mental health institutions) and residential treatment centers
    - Adult care homes, residents and staff in home plus facilities not covered in Phase 1
    - Senior living homes
    - Home care givers (paid or unpaid), personal care aides