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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health offering drive-thru clinic at LMH Health for COVID-19 booster doses

Appointments available starting Sept. 29 and can be made online

LAWRENCE, KS – Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health is offering a drive-thru clinic at LMH Health for COVID-19 booster doses starting Sept. 29 for those who qualify, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

The CDC recommends a booster dose for individuals who have completed the two-dose series with a Pfizer vaccine and are:

- 65 years and older, or
- Residents of a long-term care setting, or
- 50-64 years old with underlying medical conditions such as cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung diseases, Down syndrome, dementia, heart conditions, diabetes, HIV, immunocompromised state, liver disease, overweight or obesity, pregnancy, sickle cell disease or thalassemia, smoking, solid organ or blood stem cell transplant, stroke and substance use disorders.

The CDC also approved a booster dose for individuals who have completed the two-dose series with a Pfizer vaccine and are:

- 18-49 years old with underlying medical conditions, or
- 18-64 years old who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting. These setting may include health care workers, teachers, grocery store workers, retail workers, first responders, and residents and staff in congregant settings.

It is recommended to receive the booster dose at least six months after the final Pfizer dose. The booster dose helps increase protection against COVID-19 for those who are at highest risk of getting the disease. For those who are unsure if they qualify, it is recommended to speak to a health care provider to determine eligibility. If you've had previous negative reactions to the COVID vaccine, it is recommended to get the booster dose from your health care provider.

A booster dose has not been approved for individuals who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccinations. Boosters for the general public also have not been approved.

For those who qualify for a booster, an appointment can be made online at <http://ldchealth.org/covidvaccine> or by calling Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health at 785-843-0721. Appointments are available: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday (Sept. 29-Oct. 1), Monday-Tuesday (Oct. 4-5) and Thursday-Friday (Oct. 7-8). The doses will be provided at the LMH Health COVID Vaccination Drive Thru Center, which can be accessed from the patient and visitor entrance at 330 Arkansas St. More appointments will be made available depending on demand for the booster dose. Individuals are encouraged to bring their COVID vaccination card and/or health insurance card, but it is not required.

Booster doses also are available through many local primary care providers and pharmacies.

If you have questions about COVID vaccinations, contact the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's helpline at 866-534-3463. For information about local COVID-19 resources and data, visit the Douglas County Coronavirus Hub at douglascountyks.org/coronavirus.

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