



**Lee County Health Department
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For Immediate Release

Contact:

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For almost two years (since March of 2020), Lee County Health Department (LCHD) has been very engaged in keeping Lee County residents and local response partners updated with COVID-19 guidance, and reporting weekly available data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health. However, due to the shifting in the state of Iowa's COVID-19 surveillance activities and of state resources, the Iowa Department of Public Health will be changing how they will be collecting and reporting COVID-19 data points. As a result, this will also change LCHD's weekly data reporting. This is largely due to Governor Reynold's Public Health Disaster Emergency Proclamation expiring on February 15, 2022. Both the state's www.coronavirus.gov and www.vaccinate.iowa.gov websites will be decommissioned and no longer available. Therefore, Lee County Health Department will no longer be providing weekly COVID-19 data reports taken from these websites after February 15, 2022.

Starting on February 16th, LCHD will be directing those in need of Iowa's COVID-19 publicly available data to visit the Iowa Department of Public Health's website. The state health department will publish weekly reports on this website that will include various data points and other data resource links for the general public. LCHD will continue to monitor local public health surveillance systems in place as LCHD does for any reportable communicable disease and will remain available to county residents, schools, business and industry, and health care organizations for needed local public health intervention and guidance.

LCHD wants the public to know that these changes do not mean that the COVID-19 community transmission risks are over and still encourages and promotes use of best practices to minimize risks for severe illness and spread of virus activity in the county. Best practices for reducing risks include wearing a well-fitted facemask when in indoor public settings, social distancing, washing hands frequently or using hand sanitizer, staying home when ill, and choosing to be up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations if eligible.

LCHD will also continue to strongly recommend COVID-19 vaccinations and offer COVID-19 vaccine clinics based on the needs in the county. Beginning in March 2022, LCHD will be offering COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics every other week. March clinic dates will be March 2nd, 16th, and 30th from Noon-4:00 pm at LCHD's clinic office located at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison. LCHD will continue to have all three vaccines available – Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson – for initial and boost doses. Appointments are encouraged, and can be made by calling (319)372-5225.

LCHD will begin to offer the Pfizer vaccine available for 5-11 year-olds at their regular monthly Immunization Clinics starting in March. Clinics are held every 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:00pm-4:30pm at Trinity United Methodist Church (2330 Plank Road) in Keokuk, and every 4th Thursday from 1:00pm-4:30pm at LCHD (#3 John Bennett Drive) in Fort Madison. Appointments are encouraged, and can be made by calling (319)376-4767.

All vaccine consent forms and vaccine information sheets can be found on the LCHD website (www.leecountyhd.org).

LCHD will provide updates regarding scheduled vaccine clinics, or other county COVID-19 related information when necessary. This will include information released on the LCHD's website page (www.leecountyhd.org) in the COVID Information section, on the LCHD Facebook page, and through the media.

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