Schuyler Community Schools
District Zoom Meeting: All Staff
Friday, January 8, 2021 3:00 PM
Schuyler Community Schools Board Room
120 West 20th Street
Schuyler, NE 68661

I. Meeting Agenda

Prepared by: Christina Bywater, Secretary to the Board

COVID-19 RESPONSE

LHDs' Approach to COVID-19 Vaccine in Schools

Local Health Departments (LHDs) remain committed to working with our schools to keep students, faculty, and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Communication and partnership between schools and public health continue to be a critical factor in our shared fight against COVID-19.

The good news is that in late 2020, the first of the COVID-19 vaccines were approved and delivery began across our state.

COVID-19 vaccines are what we have been waiting for. We know that these vaccines are effective and safe. They are key to keeping our loved ones safe and our schools open. Widespread vaccination will help our local businesses get back on their feet and will move our communities forward again. As more people are vaccinated, we protect health care and essential workers, people who are at highest risk, and our broader community. Local health departments are providing vaccinations to willing adults in Nebraska as soon as possible. We strongly recommend all adults get the vaccine as soon as it is available. We can and we will get past this pandemic.

The demand for vaccine is vastly higher than the number of available doses, so in Nebraska and across the country health officials are making difficult decisions about who needs to get it first. Nebraska's LHDs follow the guidance of Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services when allocating vaccines in our communities. DHHS's guidance is responsive to federal directives as well as the situation in our state. Please know that this guidance is subject to change.

LHDs recognize the critical role that schools play in our communities. We understand the urgent need to further protect the people who work and learn in Nebraska's schools and will provide vaccine to school staff as soon as possible. Vaccines have, so far, not been tested in children, so most K-12 students and all students under 16 will not be vaccinated for COVID-19 in the foreseeable future.

DHHS guidance currently requires prioritizing eligible healthcare workers and individuals over age 75, among other groups. These individuals are slated to receive the limited available doses of COVID-19 vaccine before others. *Continued...*

Because local situations vary, the timing of schools' access to the vaccine will differ. Local health departments will work with schools directly to let them know when vaccine is available and to arrange for vaccinating consenting faculty and staff.

School faculty, staff, students, and families should continue to follow COVID-19 protocols, including...

- **Wear a mask** over their nose and mouth.
- Maintain **6-feet of distance from others** whenever possible.
- **Wash hands** often.
- Work to stay healthy while waiting their turn for the vaccine—including getting a **flu shot**.

These protocols will need to stay in place until the pandemic is over - **even after people are vaccinated.**

Again, we want to emphasize that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. In spite of this, people may have questions about the vaccine, and some people may be frightened because of misinformation and untruths circulating about the vaccine.

Reliable, science-based information about the COVID-19 vaccines is available from your local health department and can be found at the following sites:

COVID 19 Vaccine Information from Nebraska DHHS
http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information.aspx

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

COVID-19 vaccines | Nebraska Medicine Omaha, NE
https://www.nebraskamed.com/COVID/vaccine