

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 30, 2021



## **Marion County Public Health Department Encourages All Residents 16+ to Sign Up for the COVID-19 Vaccine**

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Today, the Marion County Public Health Department is urging all residents 16 and older to visit [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov) or call 2-1-1 beginning tomorrow, March 31, to sign up for their COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

All three COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the United States underwent rigorous testing and proved to not only be safe, but also highly effective at preventing COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths. Receiving any of these vaccines will greatly reduce the risk of serious illness due to the virus. Health leaders recommend that residents take the first vaccine available to them.

“The COVID-19 vaccines were developed by cutting red tape, not corners,” said Dr. Virginia Caine, director and chief medical officer of the Health Department. “Thanks to the lifesaving protection of the vaccine, COVID-19 cases in nursing homes are now close to zero. I encourage everyone in our community 16 and older to visit [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov) or call 2-1-1 to sign up to receive the vaccine and the protection it offers for you and your family.”

Last week, the Health Department announced the start of mobile vaccine clinics for Marion County, with the first held over the weekend at Eastern Star Church resulting in the vaccination of 300 neighbors. Three additional mobile vaccine clinics will be held in April in partnership with local churches, community groups, and health agencies. The dates will be announced.

Additional efforts to make vaccines more accessible to our community include IU Health’s program offering [free rides to a vaccine appointment](#) for those who need them. Residents in need of transportation to a vaccine appointment can call 1.888.IUHEALTH (1.888.484.3258) and choose option 9. Homebound individuals can arrange for a vaccine brought to them through the State of Indiana’s Homebound Indiana program. People who are interested can contact their local Area Agency on Aging at [iaaaa.org](https://iaaaa.org) or by calling 1.800.986.3505.

“The new guidance for fully-vaccinated individuals recently issued by the CDC offers us hope for returning to favorite activities and moments missed from the last year. But in public, we must all continue to do our part: wearing a mask, washing our hands, and socially distancing from others regardless of vaccine status to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and bring us closer to ending the pandemic,” Dr. Caine added.

Those who previously tested positive for COVID-19 are still encouraged by medical professionals to receive the vaccine, as contracting the virus may only provide limited protection. Residents can be expected to feel some side effects after receiving the vaccine, which can include a fever, chills, tiredness, headache, or aching at the injection site. These side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection and typically go away in 24-48 hours.

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