

NCDOH to provide 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine to moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals

The Niagara County Department of Health will provide a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine to people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments.

Following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration amendment to the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine – and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State Department of Health – the NCDOH will begin scheduling all eligible individuals ages 12 years and older.

“We strongly encourage individuals to talk to their physician or health care provider about whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them at this time,” advised Niagara County Public Health Director Daniel J. Stapleton.

Based on the recommendations from the CDC, individuals with the following conditions are eligible to receive an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose:

- √ Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies;
- √ Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy;
- √ Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy);
- √ Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome);
- √ Advanced or untreated HIV infection; and
- √ Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20mg



prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

NCDOH stated, “Whenever possible, mRNA COVID-19 vaccination doses (including the primary series and an additional dose) should be completed at least two weeks before initiation or resumption of immunosuppressive therapies. The timing of COVID-19 vaccination should take into consideration current or planned immunosuppressive therapies and optimization of both the patient’s medical condition and response to vaccine. A patient’s clinical team is best able to determine the degree of immune compromise and preferred timing of vaccination.”

“Additional doses of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be the same vaccine product as the initial two-dose mRNA COVID-19 pri-

mary vaccine series. If the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product given for the first two doses is not available, the other mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product may be administered. A person should not receive more than three mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses.”

Currently, the administration of an additional dose does not apply to the single-dose Janssen/Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination series in immunocompromised people.

Niagara County will be adding third dose appointments to all upcoming clinics listed below.

“In order to schedule an appointment, individuals will have to provide valid dates of first and second dose receipt,” Niagara County Director of Planning and Public Health Preparedness Tracy Fricano Chalmers said. “Additionally, individuals will have to complete an attestation to verify their eligibility.”

Stapleton said, “Appointments are recommended; however, walk-in participants will be welcomed. We want to make vaccination as

easy as possible for Niagara County residents.”

To schedule an appointment, use the links below. Niagara County residents who need assistance with registration for an appointment may call 211 or 1-888-696-9211.

Niagara County Community College – Learning Commons, 3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn

- 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Aug. 30
- √ Pfizer additional/third dose (ages 12-plus), registration: <https://on.ny.gov/3D4cXkg>
- √ Moderna additional/third dose (ages 18-plus), registration: <https://on.ny.gov/380CPPK>

Niagara University – Dwyer Hockey Arena, 795 Lewiston Road, Niagara University

- 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sept. 1
- √ Pfizer additional/third dose (ages 12-plus), registration: <https://on.ny.gov/3j0yFO2>
- √ Moderna additional/third dose (ages 18-plus), registration: <https://on.ny.gov/3gi2eZw>

- 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sept. 2
- √ Pfizer additional/third dose (ages 12-plus), registration: <https://on.ny.gov/3k9TZQj>
- √ Moderna additional/third dose (ages 18-plus), registration: <https://on.ny.gov/3sAE5T9>

For more information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Niagara County Department of Health website at <https://www.niagaracounty.com/health> and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/niagaracountyhealth>.

Higgins & Catholic Health: \$880,000 in American Rescue Plan funding to continue vaccine outreach in Niagara County

Congressman Brian Higgins announced Catholic Health was awarded \$880,000 in American Rescue Plan Funding to address COVID-19 vaccine disparities in Niagara County, particularly in Niagara Falls, where lack of access to vaccine resources and widespread vaccine hesitancy are preventing the community from reaching optimal vaccination rates.

Catholic Health and its Niagara County-based Mount St. Mary’s Hospital – in collaboration with project partners Niagara University, Northpointe Council Inc. and Pinnacle Community Services – will identify “hotspots” in Niagara County where residents have the greatest need for education and outreach pertaining to the COVID-19 vaccine. The program will focus on medically underserved populations in the City of Niagara Falls.

Community outreach workers will be hired and trained to increase the understanding of COVID-19 prevention in targeted communities, increase the number of residents in Niagara Falls and surrounding communities willing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and link residents to community resources, including transportation if needed, to access vaccine distribution points.

To schedule COVID-19 vaccinations, visit www.vaccines.gov.

Higgins grant (cont.)

Continued from Page 6

relevancy. Partnering with culturally diverse and socially disadvantaged farmers, the program will identify crops commonly used in the traditional diets of the diverse student body. The partnerships, established with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Providence Farm Collective, will create opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers to successfully enter the urban district’s school food market. Also partnering with growers, the Buffalo School of Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management, adult and youth leaders

from the community, and the district’s food service department, the program will develop new, culturally appropriate recipes, which will be served in eight pilot schools.

This year, the USDA is investing \$12 million in Farm to School grants, announcing 176 awards in 45 states and the District of Columbia. The awards help to expand access to fresh, local foods and hands-on agricultural learning for children across the country. The projects awarded will serve over 1.4 million students in more than 6,800 schools across

the country. The record-breaking grants give children more nutritious food options in school and support local agricultural economies.

The latest data from the 2019 Farm to School Census indicates that, during the 2018-19 school year, districts purchased nearly \$1.3 billion in local fruits, vegetables and other foods, totaling approximately 20% of all school food purchases. The new grants are said to reflect the USDA’s commitment to supporting farm to school efforts across the country.

Have you visited a Fort lately?

Membership in the Old Fort Niagara Association is open to all!

Individual \$40/year • Family \$75/year
Student \$20/year • Life \$1,000

Corporate & Contributing Memberships are also available
Please call for details 745-7611

Open: Wed-Sun 10am-4pm • Closed Mon & Tue
www.olderfortniagara.org

FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

Call 773-7676 today to find out how to advertise in our Fall Home Improvement section!

Grand Island PennySaver Sept. 15 • Tribune/Sentinel Sept. 17 • Island Dispatch Sept. 17

WHITE CHAPEL MEMORIAL PARK
3210 Niagara Falls Blvd. • Amherst • 716-692-5353

White Chapel Memorial Park is Western New York's Finest Burial Park
IT IS A NON-SECTARIAN CEMETERY AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

There are only a few cemeteries as unique as our open, picturesque, landscaped memorial park. The feeling is majestic and peaceful as you traverse through this serene setting without the obstruction of raised memorials.

10% SINGLE GRAVESITE OFF With this ad. Expires 8/31/21

BUY ONE GRAVESITE, GET THE 2ND ADJACENT SITE 50% OFF
With this ad. Expires 8/31/21

WCMC3210.COM • WCMC3210@AOL.COM
OFFICE: M-F 9am-Noon & 12:30-4; Sat. By Appt. Only • PARK: May 1 - Sept. 30 8am-8pm; Oct. 1 - Apr. 30 8am-5pm

WXRL CLASSIC COUNTRY
1300 AM & 95.5 FM

WXRL RAMBLIN' LOU TOURS
"Travel with Friends" Safely Together

Sept. 28-Oct. 4 - Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry
Nov. 8-10 - Amish Holiday Lancaster, PA - "Queen Esther" & Christmas Show
Nov. 26-30 - Nashville Country Christmas - Opryland Hotel/Grand Ole Opry
Oak Ridge Boys Dinner Show/Gen. Jackson Showboat

Bus pick-ups in N. Tonawanda & West Seneca

Watch for upcoming 2022 Tours & Dates
Great Smokey Mts. / Nashville / Memphis / Cape Cod & Foxwoods Casino / Myrtle Beach & Charleston / Frankenmuth & Mackinac Island / NYC & Washington DC / Trains & Trolleys of PA / Lancaster, PA / Black Hills-Mt Rushmore, SD / Vermont N. Hamp, Maine and Many 1 Day Tours!
If you would like to be added to our Mailing List, Phone WXRL!

It's the 52nd Annual
Ramblin' Lou Family Band
Christmas Show & Live Radio Broadcast
Saturday, December 11

The 2-hr Christmas Show is from 11am-1pm, followed by a delicious turkey meal at 1pm.
Classics V Banquet Ctr - Niag. Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY. Tickets \$39.00 each.
Send a check or money order to: WXRL Radio, Box 170, Lancaster, NY 14086
Don't miss this WNY Family Tradition!!!

Visit WXRL.com for more details.
Listen to WXRL 24/7 on 1300AM/95.5FM & Streaming LIVE @ WXRL.com
For a FREE brochure, call 716-681-1313 Mon-Fri 9am-4pm