

To serve, protect, and promote a healthy community for all.



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

BULLETIN BITS

[HTTPS://WWW.ACCESSKENT.COM/HEALTH/CORONAVIRUS.HTM](https://www.accesskent.com/health/coronavirus.htm)
DECEMBER 20, 2020

HOPE IS ON THE HORIZON

Kent County health leaders join to offer one-stop info website for COVID-19 vaccine.

The Kent County Health Department announced this week that a consortium of West Michigan health departments, hospitals, healthcare providers, universities and others have launched a website where area residents can find the latest information about the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the Dec. 15 announcement, VaccinateWestMI.com is intended to be the “go to” site for information about vaccine availability, local distribution plans, safety and efficacy, and will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

“The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, highly effective and will be our best defense against the virus,” Dr. Adam London, director of the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), said in supplied material. “But it won’t be available to everyone immediately. It’s critical for the residents of West Michigan to have access to accurate, timely and consistent information about the vaccine so we can all do our part to slow the spread of the virus. That’s why we joined with partners throughout the region to launch this site.”

The Pfizer vaccine was the first to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use in the U.S. on Dec.11, and other vaccine approvals either have or are expected to follow.

But initial supplies are extremely limited. The first shipments arrived at area hospitals this week, with vaccinations starting with frontline health care workers. Workers and residents of long-term care facilities are also slated to be among the first to receive the vaccine, with other high-risk groups scheduled to follow.

As supplies of the vaccine increase, those at lower risk will qualify, and, according KCHD, “experts project all individuals 16 years and older will qualify to get vaccinated by mid- to late-2021.”

As vaccines become available, healthcare providers will distribute the vaccine according to the plans developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, a national independent committee of medical and public health experts, according to the KCHD announcement.

[VaccinateWestMI.com](https://www.accesskent.com/health/coronavirus.htm) will be updated as new information becomes available and visitors to the site can sign up for email updates on the vaccine.



VaccinateWestMI.com

The “go to” site for information on the vaccine.

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After a rigorous testing and FDA approval process, a COVID-19 vaccine is now approved and available in limited supplies in West Michigan and throughout the U.S. Thank you for your interest in the vaccine. And thanks for all you are doing to help slow the spread of the coronavirus in our community.
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Click here to view **Video on COVID** **Vaccine**

