

for immediate release – Dec. 15, 2020

UAHS COVID-19 update

Olean General Hospital received its first supply of Pfizer vaccine Tuesday and began vaccinations of physicians, nurses and staff who work in high risk areas at the hospital.

Katie Blocher, RN, second floor, was the first frontline healthcare worker at OGH to receive the vaccine. Elliot Marino, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical manager, pharmacy, administered the first COVID-19 vaccine.

The vaccination programs are under strict state government direction through the respective departments of health in New York and Pennsylvania. The health departments direct which hospitals receive vaccines for their employees. Hospitals have no input or say as to which hospitals receive vaccines, nor do they have the authority to redirect vaccine allocations.

We have received notification that Bradford Regional Medical Center will receive the Moderna vaccine within the next two weeks, pending FDA approval. As soon as we receive vaccines for BRMC, we will begin inoculations immediately. We understand from newspaper reports that other hospitals have received vaccines for distribution to their employees in McKean and Potter counties. Again, we have no control over the allocation of vaccines from the health department.

OGH encourages everyone who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves, their families, their co-workers and their patients, particularly those at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. By choosing to get vaccinated, they can also help lower transmission rates and flatten the curve in the community.

As participants in the state's COVID-19 vaccination program, and in accordance with the memorandum of understanding issued by the NYSDOH, OGH is adhering to confidentiality requirements as they relate to vaccine quantities received, the number of vaccinations completed and vaccine storage information.

Facts about the COVID-19 vaccination program:

- Vaccination will be voluntary.
- Per New York state directive, vaccines will be offered first to employees and providers working in high risk areas and then opened up to those in other areas as vaccine supply allows and in line with the expectations set forth in the New York State Department of Health prioritization matrix.
- OGH's allocation of vaccines is dictated by New York state.
- Vaccines will be a two-part process, which will be 21 days apart.
- While these vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to [ensure the safety](#) of any vaccine that is authorized or approved for use.
- According to Pfizer data presented to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), these vaccines are 95% effective with severe adverse reactions occurring in 0.0% to 4.6% of participants.

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