

Vaccine Update

Greetings Parishioners,

Many of us are now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. The main problem currently is finding a provider that has vaccine in stock, though that will hopefully change with manufacturers slated to begin distributing tens of millions of doses of the three vaccines currently approved within the next month.

The first thing everyone should do is register with the Carroll County Health Department and get on their vaccine list. Give them a call at 815-244-8855 and monitor their website at www.ccphd.org.

Another great source is a site known as VaccineFinder (<https://vaccinefinder.org/search/>) which allows you to search by zip code within a mileage radius of your choice to see which providers are offering vaccines and which currently have vaccines “in stock”. Of course, vaccine availability is subject to change and appointments are required at most locations.

The site is very user friendly, all that you need to do is put in a zip code and a mileage radius to search. The site will display a list of providers, including contact information, that have vaccines currently in stock.

As of the date of this email, vaccines were available at Osco Drug, Hy-Vee Inc, Wagner Pharmacy, MercyOne in Clinton; Walgreens, Walmart in Freeport; Walgreens in Sterling; Walgreens in Dixon. Walmart stores in Clinton, Dixon, Sterling and Galena are currently out of stock, but should be receiving more inventory soon.

The key is to be proactive and monitor multiple locations even across state lines. Many local residents have and continue to receive vaccinations in Iowa.

Also, please be cognizant of concerns regarding the newly released vaccine from Johnson & Johnson highlighted by Bishop Malloy in his March 5th letter to all parishioners of the Diocese of Rockford (see the St. John’s website at www.stjohnsavanna.org for a copy of Bishop Malloy’s letter).

The concern is that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was developed, tested and produced using abortion-derived cell lines which raises serious moral concerns. Accordingly, Bishop Malloy and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have indicated that choosing the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine is preferable. However, if an individual has no choice of vaccines then receiving even the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is morally permissible,

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given the current pandemic. Bishop Malloy further indicated that, “Choosing to be vaccinated can be both an act of love toward our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, as well as a contribution to the common good of our society.”

Parishioners who need assistance with transportation may call Carroll County Transit at 815-244-0011 or contact St. John’s business office at 815-273-3961 if unable to arrange transportation with CCT. We have volunteers who are happy to help. Please provide as much advance notice as possible.

At this point we all need to take another dose of “patience” until we get COVID-19 in our rear-view mirrors!

Blessings to all,

Your Parish Pastoral Council