



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Everado "Ever" Villarreal
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

**OFFICE OF
COUNTY JUDGE
RICHARD F. CORTEZ**

Public Affairs Division

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

County schedules second community COVID-19 vaccine clinic in La Joya area; event marks the first time that two clinics will be held simultaneously in Hidalgo County

EDINBURG – Hidalgo County health officials, in conjunction with La Joya Independent School District, will be hosting a second COVID-19 community vaccine clinic in that area on Thursday, Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez said.

A previously scheduled vaccine clinic in San Juan, hosted by the PSJA ISD, will also occur marking the first time that Hidalgo County will be administering vaccines simultaneously in two locations. Each location will have 1,000 doses of the vaccine to distribute to the public.

The La Joya ISD clinic will be held at the Juarez Lincoln High School, at 7801 West Mile 7 Road in Mission. Officials will begin administering the Moderna vaccinations on Thursday, January 14, beginning at 8 a.m. on a first come, first served basis to all eligible people. Police at that location will direct people to a parking lot to wait for the vaccines.

"The fact that we are holding two different vaccine clinics in two areas of Hidalgo County is very significant," said Judge Cortez. "We are committed to getting as many vaccinations done as soon as possible."

Hidalgo County will be following state protocol that targets healthcare workers. These workers will be asked to provide proof that they are in the healthcare industry.

This week's clinic is also intended for anyone born before 1955 and are now 65 years or older. In addition, people aged 18 and older with certain medical conditions are eligible to be vaccinated with the advice of their doctors.

Based on previous vaccine clinics held at the eastern and western end of the county, health officials are advising the following:

- Bring ID and proof of medical condition (current medication, a prescription from their doctor)
- Bring clearance letter from their physician
- People are encouraged to bring water and snacks
- There will be extended periods of waiting and sitting
- Children 18 and under should not be in the clinic
- Those seeking vaccines that have mobility issues are allowed to be accompanied by one person for assistance.

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LA JOYA WILL HOST A MEDIA AVAILABILITY BETWEEN 10 AND 11 A.M. ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE JUAREZ LINCOLN CAMPUS. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MEDIA TO CAPTURE B-ROLL FOR THIS EVENT.

MEDIA MAY SHOW UP TO PSJA CAMPUS ANYTIME ON THURSDAY BUT ARE ENCOURAGED TO CALL ARIANNA VASQUEZ-HERNANDEZ AT 956-279-9420 AHEAD OF ARRIVAL.

For more information, including a form that can be printed and prefilled, go to the Hidalgo County website at www.hidalgocounty.us.

The following information is the state definition for healthcare workers who are eligible for vaccinations on Thursday:

First Tier

1. Paid and unpaid workers in hospital settings working directly with patients who are positive or at high risk for COVID-19. Such as but not limited to:
 - a. Physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.)
 - b. Additional clinical staff providing supporting laboratory, pharmacy, diagnostic and/or rehabilitation services
 - c. Others having direct contact with patients or infectious materials;
2. Long-term care staff working directly with vulnerable residents. Includes:
 - a. Direct care providers at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and state supported living centers
 - b. Physicians, nurses, personal care assistants, custodial, food service staff;
3. EMS providers who engage in 9-1-1 emergency services like pre-hospital care and transport;
4. Home health care workers, including hospice care, who directly interface with vulnerable and high-risk patients;
5. Residents of long-term care facilities.

Second Tier

1. Staff working in outpatient care settings who interact with symptomatic patients. Such as but not limited to:
 - a. Physicians, nurses, and other support staff (custodial staff, etc.)
 - b. Clinical staff providing diagnostic, laboratory, and/or rehabilitation services
 - c. Non 9-1-1 transport for routine care
 - d. Healthcare workers in corrections and detention facilities;
2. Direct care staff in freestanding emergency medical care facilities and urgent care clinics;
3. Community pharmacy staff who may provide direct services to clients, including vaccination or testing for individuals who may have COVID;
4. Public health and emergency response staff directly involved in administration of COVID testing and vaccinations;

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5. Last responders who provide mortuary or death services to decedents with COVID-19. Includes:
 - a. Embalmers and funeral home workers who have direct contact with decedents
 - b. Medical examiners and other medical certifiers who have direct contact with decedents;
6. School nurses who provide health care to students and teachers.

Also eligible for vaccines on Thursday under state protocol are:

1. People 65 years of age and older;
2. People 18 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, such as but not limited to:
 - Cancer
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
 - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies
 - Solid organ transplantation
 - Obesity and severe obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m² or higher)
 - Pregnancy
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

These recipients are strongly encouraged to consult with and secure permission from their respective doctors to receive the vaccinations.

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