

2/18/21 Elected Officials Call Notes

TOWN HALL FROM LAST NIGHT <https://youtu.be/mlq3BBC8csA>

Update on vaccine allocations for this week – we were set to receive 1,300 doses for 5 populations (essential health care, 1b, comorbidities, pop up); due to weather we will be rescheduling appointments for those currently registered.

We are still holding a pop up at GIAC on Friday with 200 doses provided by the state, Pop ups are a State initiative, meant to meet people where they are and focus on communities of color. Pop ups are designed to serve the immediate neighborhood, are walkable, and support those with limited access to the vaccine due to other barriers. GIAC is coordinating registration.

Status of disease – there is a lower volume of new cases (single digits past 2 days!)

Vaccination efforts have been applauded state-wide; 100% of doses being used

Vaccine Priority in Tompkins County:

- Phase 1a – CHS distribution to healthcare workers, at CMC Phase 1b – Distributed at Shops at Ithaca Mall site: P-12 Schools; Grocery Stores, Convenience Stores, Bodegas; Age 65+ with comorbidity
 - Age 65+ with or w/o comorbidity – distribution with Pharmacies and State Sites
- Updated weekly on the TCHD website: <https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/covid19weeklydoses#weekly-allocation>

6700 people are now fully vaccinated, 9,293 first doses administered to-date

We continue to experience a supply issue; we are not experiencing a demand issue, all shots are going in arms which is very encouraging news; ask for continued patience as we advocate for increased doses to our area

We released an attestation form for comorbidity (print online or fill out at the vaxx site. This is for Tompkins County appointments only, the State sites have a different form.

On 2/11 – the Governor updated quarantine guidance to align with CDC, eliminating quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated people following close contact exposure. Still awaiting guidance. This does not eliminate travel quarantine.

The Governor issued EO 202.93 - Extended all EOs to March 13 including remote meetings and mask wearing.

Yesterday the Governor announced Day and Overnight Summer Camps Can Begin to Plan for Reopening; Department of Health Will Issue Guidance in the Coming Weeks

We've experienced successful Office Hours as places for community members to receive information from professionals about vaccines.

Past sessions can be found here:

<https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/covid19vaccine#office-hours-schedule>

Upcoming Events: next week 2/24 at 3pm, Office Hour for Older Adults with CMC's Dr. Blake; 2/24 at 5pm Office Hour in Spanish with CMC's Dr. Aponte.

To be scheduled: Office Hour in Mandarin; Office Hour for Veterans; additional office hours for people of color

Please Encourage constituents to sign up for email alerts from the Health Dept:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzL6Ril1-kz-f28Y2LNiZNX0noRxZgjqJjs3ZiY375xALQEA/viewform>

Reimaging Public Safety report will be coming out Monday. We will provide opportunities for community feedback sessions in addition to the Public meeting of the Legislature.

Budget updates:

In January, the State is taking out the fiscally distressed hospital funds which is ~\$331,000,

Once in January and February sales tax are in we will start comparing to create an understanding of impacts

Jason provided a presentation to the Tompkins Intergovernmental Relations Committee regarding potential NYS impacts on budget

How are leftover doses being used?

On-site pharmacy staff manage doses closely, vaccine is only thawed as it is needed. In cases where there is more we have a small standby list of first responders that we communicate with for those doses.

What about people getting vaccinated in PA?

This may be through Guthrie which operates here and has clinics in PA.

The \$331k diversion of sales tax, is that just one time?

We believe so, yes. For 2020 payment. We will have that taken out quarterly in 2021. On 2/4 NYS diverted \$331,537 from our sales tax payment for the 2020 payment to the fund. Going forward this diversion will be taken quarterly in May, August and November of 2021, and January 2022. Provision is set to sunset 3/31/2022.

Likely to be in play for negotiation for SFY 22/23. List of pharmacies giving out shots?

Last week only the 4 Kinney's got doses, we are unsure of who is impacted by weather this week.

Has the accuracy of testing changed at all?

No, the test sensitivity has stayed the same and the accuracy is high.

For elderly homebound who receive care from caregivers working in other settings, how would folks get testing?

We are working on the ability to deliver testing kits to them

What's the plan for vaccinating the homebound?

The best way to protect them is to vaccinate those who have to go into the home. Those going into the home can be vaccinated based on eligibility requirements.

2nd doses, are they coming into the county and being held, how does that work?

They are designated as 2nd doses, and come into the county the week before administration.

Where do pharmacies get supplies?

We do not know from where. We receive some notice from the State of which are receiving allocations.

If someone is undocumented can they get vaccinated?

Yes. For essential workers they just need proof of employment.

In proposed rescue bill there would be money for state and local, what details do you have?

We don't have all of this information yet, we'd direct you to the TIGR committee meeting - <https://youtu.be/UmVV8MCzcLk>

What criteria is the County using to select which senior housing facilities are eligible?

Primarily that they are income based and have a large population of 65+ with comorbidities, we are putting together transportation solutions too.

Retirement incentive being worked on by the State?

Haven't seen anything official.