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ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES UPDATE ON VACCINE CLINICS

Elizabeth City, NC –Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is providing an update on the vaccine process throughout the region.

"We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the largest pandemic vaccination response in our nation's history," states R. Battle Betts, Jr., MPA, Health Director. "Each week we are learning more about our capacity to respond to the need and demand regionwide and are adjusting our plans accordingly. We are beyond proud of our staff and county partners for their selfless acts, battling frigid temperatures and long hours to get vaccines into arms. Your grace and kindness is greatly appreciated."

COVID-19 VACCINE – FIRST DOSE INFORMATION

In an effort to streamline the vaccine process and to expedite our resources in getting vaccine to target populations, ARHS will be moving away from the pre-registration process and will announce weekly clinics based on allocations in each county. Anyone on the lists who has not been called, we will attempt to reach you to communicate clinic offerings, however we have reached the vast majority who were registered this week. These clinics will have set hours and set vaccine doses available, and will be provided on a first come, first served basis. ARHS is receiving vaccine weekly and are working to establish clinics to meet demand region wide based on current priority groups. Continue to check our website https://www.arhs-nc.org for vaccine clinic times and dates.

The state has outlined vaccine priority groups which can be found at this site: https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines

THE CURRENT PRIORITY GROUPS ARE:

- HEALTHCARE WORKERS (Group 1)
- INDIVIDUALS 65 and OLDER (Group 2)

Please only come to a clinic if you meet the targeted group.

In an effort to expend doses in the region, Bertie County and Chowan County will be offering an additional clinic each for their residents on Friday, January 22. Again, we are asking individuals in Bertie and Chowan County who are healthcare workers and 65 and older to attend these clinics. **Lines will be cut off when the allocation has been exhausted.** The clinic times and locations are as follows:

Bertie County: Bertie County High School – 9 am

• Chowan County: American Legion Fair Grounds – 9 am

COVID-19 VACCINE – SECOND DOSE INFORMATION

Anyone who received their first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine should register at http://www.arhs-nc.org/information/COVID-19/vaccines/. We will use the information from this survey to share information on clinic locations and times. This will be used for communication **ONLY** and will not guarantee an appointment or dose.

The date on your card noting when your second dose is due is the <u>suggested date</u> you should receive your second dose. It can be administered after that date, or four days prior to that date. The series will not need to be restarted if you receive it after that date. We will be working to get all individuals vaccinated as close to that date as possible through clinic offerings.

You will need to bring the vaccine card you received with your first dose with you to this clinic. If you do not have your card, you may experience additional delays, or may be turned away and rescheduled because we have to verify your first dose for your safety.

For more information about COVID-19, visit these sites:

ARHS Vaccine Registration - http://www.arhs-nc.org/information/COVID-19/vaccines/

Albemarle Regional Health Services - http://www.arhs-nc.org/or call 252-338-WELL

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - https://www.ncdhhs.gov/

Center for Disease Control - https://www.cdc.gov/

For more information, please contact Amy Underhill, ARHS Public Information Officer at 252-338-4448 or

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Albemarle Regional Health Services is dedicated to disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy environment to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability through quality service, education, and advocacy.

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