

Hello, my name is Joel Strasz, Health Officer with the Bay County Health Department. Today is Tuesday, January 26th and here is the weekly update on COVID-19 vaccines and the COVID-19 situation here in Bay County.

How is the supply situation?

First let's talk about the supply situation. While the supply situation has improved slightly there are still major shortages at the national and state level. We have received a limited number of doses for distribution this week and for second doses as well.

How will I know if my vaccine registration has been received?

At the end of the registration process you will see this particular message come up on screen and that is your confirmation at this point in time.

How will the Health Department contact me to let me know when my vaccine appointment will be?

There are two methods that we use to reach out to individuals who have registered and have been scheduled an appointment. The first is by email so please check your email account on a frequent basis and also check that email accounts spam folder in the event that the email message inadvertently went to the spam folder. The second way is by telephone. Now in this day and age we get a lot of phone calls from a lot of different people but it's important to note that is an important method that we do to confirm messages and to confirm appointments. Check your phone on a regular basis and check your voicemail as well.

Will I need to confirm my vaccination appointment via email or phone?

No, that's not necessary your email will be the confirmation of your appointment. Please check your email on a regular basis.

I've waited weeks and haven't got a call about my vaccination. Why haven't I been contacted yet?

The reason being is that there is a shortage of vaccine supply and the shortage is happening both at the national level and at the state level. However when the

vaccine becomes available and when slots are open for our vaccine clinics we will contact you by email and or by phone.

Please have your email ready and readily check them on a daily basis and also check your phone as well.

What happened to the COVID-19 dashboard? Will you continue to update that data?

We've had to update that dashboard for a variety of different reasons. The first is that the overwhelming and sheer amount of data that we've had with the recent outbreak and the recent spike in the number of cases is almost too overwhelming. The second reason that we need to update our dashboard is that we need to make it more simple and more understandable for people to understand. So in this new dashboard which is updated Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays you'll find the number of confirmed cases, the number of deaths, the test positivity rate for Bay county, the number of new cases per million population, and the number of individuals who have been vaccinated by the Bay County Health Department. We hope to add more information as it becomes available, but we believe that this new simplified version of the dashboard will help you get a greater understanding and scope of the COVID-19 situation here in Bay county.

Thank you for joining us this week and as always keep an eye on the bay county website and the Bay County Health Department Facebook page as well for frequent updates these updates can occur on a daily basis.