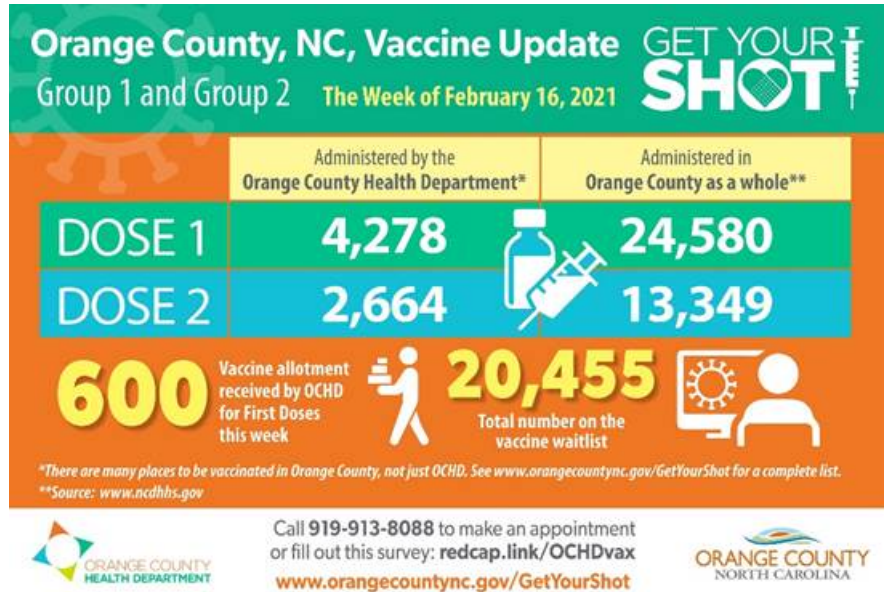


From: Maurice Jones
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Town Email Users
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Update 2-19-21

Hello Everyone,

I am grateful to all the staff who have put in extra work this week to continue our response to COVID-19 while adding winter weather response to your plate. We were very fortunate that the storm was not as severe as early forecasts had predicted, but I'm proud to know our staff was prepared to handle whatever would have come our way.

It looks like we may have the return of sun this weekend—something we haven't seen much of lately. I hope you will take time to enjoy it, get away from the day-to-day of your job, and unplug for a little while. For our public safety folks and others working weekend shifts, thank you for providing these important services to our community when everyone else is enjoying their time off.



Vaccines and Quarantines

As you can see in the graphic above, the vaccine rollout continues at a slow and steady pace. Our local health department, hospitals, and health care providers are getting as many shots into arms as the federal government will release to the state. The word from Gov. Cooper and Sec. Cohen continues to be, 'have patience, and stick to the routine.'

If you missed last week's announcement, North Carolina will move to vaccine eligibility Group 3 on March 10 with educators getting a two-week head start, beginning Feb. 24. To find out what group you're in, visit findmygroup.nc.gov. For more information about the vaccine rollout plan, visit yourspotyourshot.nc.gov.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced last week that it's okay to skip quarantine protocol if you've been exposed once you are fully vaccinated as long as it is within 90 days of receiving your vaccine. Very few of our staff are there yet, but I want to reiterate the importance of sticking with our process of reporting illness through the Exposure Response Team (ERT) whether you have been vaccinated or not. You have done extremely well by using this process to limit the spread of COVID-19 among Town staff. Thank you, and let's keep up the good work.

So, once you are fully vaccinated, don't give up on the three Ws (wear a face covering over your mouth and nose, wait six feet away from people who are not members of your household, and wash your hands regularly). Until we reach herd immunity and public health professionals say it is safe to do so, we must stick with these tried and true methods.

COVID-19 Vaccine 101 Video Sessions

Do you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines or the process by which those vaccines are being distributed?

Dr. Joseph Grover is the medical director of Orange County Emergency Services. He graciously sat down (virtually) with Town staff for three sessions of information sharing and Q&As about the vaccines.

If you weren't able to make it to one of the sessions, I strongly encourage you to view the videos at your convenience. There is a lot of important, timely, and helpful information—especially if you are on the fence or concerned about getting the virus.

WATCH: <https://thehive.townofchapelhill.org/buzz/covid19/vaccines/>

Ask the Manager

Don't forget to submit your questions to me so I can answer them in a future email update to all Town staff. Send your questions to pio@townofchapelhill.org. We ask that you stick to questions that would benefit multiple staff members and that are relevant to the pandemic. There are also opportunities listed in the resources section below to get your questions answered. I look forward to hearing more about what's on your mind and the topics that are most important to you.

Resources

- Submit employee questions and concerns to the Office of Risk Management at 919-969-5035, rallen@townofchapelhill.org
- Contact the Town's Wellness Clinic: 919-968-2796, <https://chapelhillwellnessatwork.org/>
 - Please call first
 - Please note: the Town's Wellness Clinic does not have the capability to test for coronavirus; the staff can recommend whether you should seek additional medical guidance
- Your Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plan provides video diagnosis options. Visit <https://member.carefirst.com/members/health-wellness/video-visit.page>.
- Contact the Ombuds at ombuds@townofchapelhill.org or 919-265-0806
- If you need to talk with someone about personal problems and/or work-related problems that may impact your job performance, health, mental and emotional well-being, call 1-800-326-3864 or visit bhsonline.com.



Thanks for your exceptional work! Stay safe.

All the Best,
Maurice

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