CLEVELAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 16, 2021

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Everyone 16 and Older is now Eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine

Appointments Available with the Cleveland County Health Department

SHELBY, NC – Effective April 7, the NC Department of Health and Human Services announced everyone sixteen (16) and older who wants a safe and effective vaccine is now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in North Carolina.

The Cleveland County Health Department is currently scheduling first dose appointments for the Pfizer vaccine. The vaccine is free for everyone regardless of income or insurance. No photo ID is necessary and there are currently no residency restrictions. Anyone sixteen (16) and older may schedule an appointment by calling the COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Line at 980-484-6019 Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Individuals under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at their appointment to provide consent for the vaccine.

"Our supply is very good and we have seen a decrease in the demand for the vaccine as more people have gotten vaccinated and as more providers are now offering the vaccine," says DeShay Oliver, Deputy Health Director, Cleveland County Health Department. "As a result, scheduling has become very simple and is no longer a competitive process. In fact, we have not filled all of our available appointments over the course of the past couple weeks. If you have been holding off on getting the vaccine, now is the time."

According to NC DHHS, North Carolina's key metrics show a leveling of COVID-19 trends after several weeks of decline. Although levels are far below the post-holiday peak in January, most of the state continues to experience significant or substantial community spread with concerning increases in younger adult age groups. To slow the spread of the virus, people should get vaccinated and continue adherence to the 3Ws until most people have a chance to get vaccinated.

"The updated COVID-19 County Alert System shows Cleveland County as light yellow, indicating moderate community spread. While our new daily cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations are moderately low, several neighboring and nearby counties are experiencing substantial or significant spread. It is important to practice the 3Ws and get vaccinated so we can continue to gain control of our lives and get back to the people and places we love," Oliver added.

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