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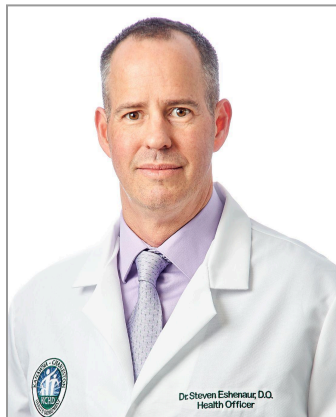
NEWS RELEASE

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KCHD Out Of COVID Vaccines Due To High Demand

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Because of high demand, the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department is out of updated COVID vaccinations. An emergency order has been shipped.



Dr. Steven Eshenaur, KCHD's Health Officer, says the increased demand comes because without an order from a provider, pharmacists cannot administer a vaccination that has not been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The committee has not met on the topic of COVID, but is expected to do so September 18-19.

KCHD has a physician on staff that has issued a standing order for COVID vaccines to those patients who meet the FDA recommendation for vaccination. Patients must be able to attest to having at least one [risk factor outlined by CDC](#) if they are under age 65.

"It shouldn't be long until our COVID vaccine supply is replenished," Eshenaur said. "We are also working through insurance issues as they arise. This situation is fluid for sure, but our priority is always to take care of the public."

Typically, KCHD doesn't require appointments for COVID vaccinations, but to be sure the vaccine is in stock, please check KCHD's social media accounts and [kchdwv.gov](#) or call us at 304-348-8080.

"In the meantime, before you do get a COVID vaccine, know your risk factors, take care to avoid crowds, social distance when you can, wear a mask if you are immunocompromised, and wash your hands more than you think possible," Eshenaur

said. "These things will help you avoid viruses, but you need to make sure you are also up-to-date on your flu, RSV, and pneumonia vaccines, if you are old enough for the last two. Vaccines can help you avoid severe illness, or at the very least if you do contract a virus, keep you out of the hospital."

KCHD's clinic is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and until 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Please arrive at least a half hour prior to closing to allow our team time to serve you.

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