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Press Release

For Release: Immediately

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Reno County Health Department to Begin Offering COVID Booster Vaccines – Pfizer only

Reno County, Kan.- September 24, 2021- The Reno County Health Department, 209 W Second Ave., will begin offering FREE COVID-19 booster vaccinations starting Monday, September 27, to select populations. On September 22, The FDA granted emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be used as a booster dose. The Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice (ACIP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) further limited the approved population specifying persons age 65+ and residents in long-term care settings, along with those aged 50 to 64 years with underlying medical conditions SHOULD receive a booster shot at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series second dose. Persons aged 18 to 49 with underlying medical conditions and ages 18 to 64 who are at increased risk for exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting MAY receive a booster of Pfizer-BioNTech at least 6 months after their primary series was completed, based on their individual benefits and risks. Please note only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will be administered to those who received their primary doses of Pfizer-BioNTech at least six months prior. The Health Department will inform the public, regarding Moderna and J&J vaccines, once more information is received regarding booster vaccines.

Underlying medical conditions include cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung diseases, dementia or other neurological condition, diabetes, down syndrome, heart conditions, HIV infection, immunocompromised state, liver disease, obesity and overweight, pregnancy, sickle cell disease, smoking, stem cell transplant, stroke or cerebrovascular disease, or substance use disorders. Patients will sign a self-attestation for declaration of underlying medical conditions.

Occupational or institutional settings are not specifically defined but may include healthcare workers, teachers, grocery store workers, retail workers, first responders, residents, and staff of congregate settings.

Appointments may be scheduled by calling 620-694-2900 Ext. 6, or walk-ins will be accepted during normal operating hours. The Health Department is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7:30 am to noon and 1 to 6 pm, and Wednesdays from 9 am to noon and 1 to 6 pm. Flu vaccines can also be administered at the same time as the COVID booster. The Health Department is also administering first and second doses of the vaccine to any Reno County resident aged 12 and over, regardless of citizen status or insurance. For a ride to one of the vaccine sites, call RCAT at 620-694-2913.

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