

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC
Communications Director
Lee County Government
239-826-4606
bclayton@leegov.com

Vaccination rollout update from Florida Department of Health and Lee County Government

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 7, 2021 – Tidal Basin, the state's call-center vendor for COVID-19 vaccinations for seniors and front-line medical workers, earlier this week captured more than 10,000 phone calls in 11 minutes when its new reservation line opened. The Florida Department of Health-Lee (FDOH) and Lee County today have announced that next Tuesday and Wednesday's allocation of vaccinations at the current site will be used for those additional callers, most of whom now have been pre-registered by the vendor.

The phone line for reservations is currently closed and remains closed; residents are asked to not dial the call center. The state and county will announce when additional vaccine doses are available and the line reopens. Visit www.leegov.com/vaccine.

Tidal Basin will begin placing calls to schedule the pre-registered slots beginning this afternoon through Monday. Not every pre-registered individual will receive a scheduling call today. Shots will be administered between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12 and 13.

DOH-Lee anticipates administering about 4,000 doses during those two days at the current site, which is east of Interstate 75 off Daniels Parkway. It's the site of the old airport terminal parking lot off Paul J. Doherty Parkway.

The site has proved a successful solution to vaccinating thousands of people 65 and older without an unnecessary wait. Traffic to and from the site is flowing; parking is ample; people with appointments are not experiencing delays. Public transportation is available to the site.

By close of business today, more than 11,000 individuals will have been vaccinated at Lee County sites. This total does not include medical workers vaccinated at separate sites by the Florida Department of Health-Lee or vaccinations issued by other entities such as Lee Health.

FDOH-Lee and the county soon will announce information about the second dose of the vaccine and how scheduling will be handled.

The state and county have requested that Tidal Basin stand up a help line or call center for pre-registered people who have questions. Details will be announced when they become available at www.leegov.com/vaccine.

As COVID-19 vaccine distribution continues, the Lee County Sheriff's Office advises to be aware of emerging fraud schemes, such as:

- Calls asking to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine.
- Calls asking to pay to put your name on a vaccine waiting list or to get early access.
- Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online or from unsolicited/unknown sources.
- Marketers offering to sell or ship doses of the vaccine for payment.
- Requests from someone unknown to an individual asking for a social security number, bank account information or credit card information.

Lee County residents who believe they have been the victim of COVID-19 fraud can report it to:

- Lee County Sheriff's Office fraud line – 258-3292
- HHS-OIG Hotline: 1-800-HHS-TIPS or log on to tips.hhs.gov
- FBI Hotline: 1-800-CALL-FBI
- CMS/Medicare Hotline: 1-800-MEDICARE

Additional information:

Complete information can be found at www.leegov.com/vaccine. People can visit Lee County Government Facebook and other social media channels (www.leegov.com/socialmedia) or monitor Florida DOH's Twitter @flhealthlee. The United Way 211 line for vaccine questions is staffed 24/7. Dial 211 or 239-433-3900. This is not a reservation or appointment phone line.