

FOR RELEASE: June 8, 2021

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Return to Normal on the Horizon

Livingston County, IL – A return to some sense of normalcy is on the horizon for all Illinoisans as Governor JB Pritzker announced the release of guidelines for Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan, which will go into effect on June 11th, marking a full reopening of all businesses and activities the state. This guidance will mean businesses, large-scale events, conventions, amusement parks, and seated-spectator venues, among others, will be able to operate at full capacity for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State is also lifting the outdoor mask requirement in schools in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The news follows weeks of steady decreases in new positive COVID-19 cases, evidence of the positive impact COVID-19 vaccines are having in combating the virus. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), over 35% of Livingston County residents have been fully vaccinated as of June 8, 2021.

While the initiation of Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan is welcomed news, the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) cautions that people still need to take action to protect themselves and those around them. “Vaccination is the best protection,” said Jackie Dever, LCHD Administrator. “We strongly encourage anyone ages 12 and up to receive their COVID-19 vaccine not only for themselves, but for those around them who may not be able to receive the vaccine.

The LCHD has on-going vaccination clinics at the health department (310 E Torrance Ave., Pontiac).

- Moderna and J&J Vaccines: Monday & Friday mornings 7:00-9:00am; Monday afternoons 3:30-5:30pm
- *Pfizer and J&J Vaccines: Tuesday afternoons 1:00-4:00pm

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferred. Further details can be found on their website: <https://lchd.us/site/covid-19-vaccination/>. *Pfizer is available to anyone age 12 and older with parental consent required for those under age 18.

It is essential that community members remain vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. Those individuals who are unvaccinated are asked to continue social distancing and wearing a facemask when unable to maintain distance in order to help reduce virus transmission. If you have questions or concerns about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider.

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