



Contact:
Marianne Gamboa
City of Birmingham
(248) 530-1812

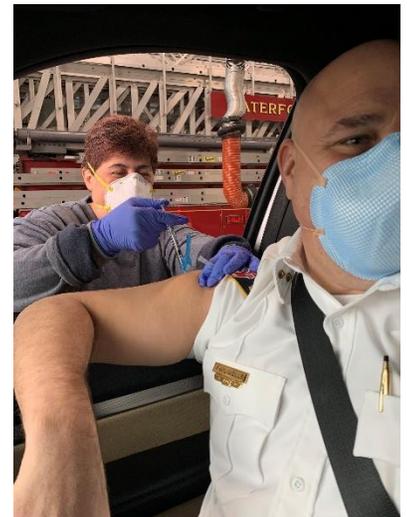
For Immediate Release

Birmingham Fire Department Prepares to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines

BIRMINGHAM, MI, January 13, 2021 – As Michigan moves into the next phase of COVID-19 vaccinations, plans are underway for the Birmingham Fire Department to assist with inoculating Birmingham residents. The department has formally requested vaccines from the state and the Oakland County Health Department, and hopes to receive them in the coming weeks.

“We prepared for this turning point in the pandemic in April by purchasing syringes and needles with the hope of someday inoculating residents who are most susceptible to this deadly disease,” said Birmingham Fire Chief Paul Wells. “I want to remind the community that this vaccine is safe, and it is critical in our fight against COVID-19. More than 30 Birmingham firefighters are paramedics and we will be ready when vaccines become available.”

Ninety percent of Birmingham firefighters have received both rounds of the COVID-19 vaccine, as they provide direct medical assistance to COVID-19 patients throughout the City. Following the vaccination, some firefighters experienced mild symptoms such as body aches and a low fever for 12-24 hours. Residents should expect these mild side effects, which may be more noticeable after the second shot. The side effects are normal and signify the immune system is kicking into gear, as intended. Residents are reminded to continue to wear masks even if they had COVID-19 or if they received the vaccine, as it may still be possible to spread the virus to loved ones and fellow citizens.



Birmingham Fire Chief Paul Wells receives the COVID-19 vaccine.

For information about vaccine availability, residents should **not call at this time** but follow these steps to receive updates regarding the vaccine rollout:

- 1) Sign up for Birmingham's Citywide Email list at www.bhamgov.org/citywideemail.
- 2) Register for the City's Nixle emergency alert system at www.nixle.com or simply send a text message with the zip code 48009 to 888777.
- 3) Visit www.OaklandCountyVaccine.com and complete the ‘Save Your Spot’ form. Register for updates from the Oakland County Health Department by texting OAKGOV to 28748.

The City will send out updates as more information becomes available. Residents may visit www.bhamgov.org/virusprevention for helpful information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Michigan, the Oakland County Health Division and more.