



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCCHD, Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum remind Oklahomans to remember the Oklahoma Standard

More Oklahomans able to get vaccinated on Monday

(Oklahoma City, OK) - With more Oklahomans being able to get vaccinated on Monday, the Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) and the Oklahoma National Memorial and Museum remind residents of the Oklahoma Standard.

The Oklahoma Standard is a statewide initiative preserving and promoting a culture of caring citizens by encouraging Acts of Service, Honor, and Kindness.

At this time, the best act of kindness that one can do is to get vaccinated.

The phrase came into being after the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building when 168 lives were lost and everyone's lives were forever changed.

OCCHD invited several residents who are 65 and older and whose lives were forever changed on April 19, 1995, to get vaccinated as a sign of encouragement to other Oklahomans to get the life-saving vaccine themselves.

"In these times that are challenging for all of us, we are reminded to make the Oklahoma Standard part of our daily lives," said Kari Watkins, executive director of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. "This standard continues today as the model by which Oklahomans live their lives – Showing Up to Serve, Rising Up to Honor, and Stepping Up to be Kind."

Oklahoma City's bright future would not have been possible without the continuing display of the Oklahoma Standard. If residents will apply the Oklahoma Standard again by getting vaccinated, Oklahoma County can get on the other side of the pandemic.

On Monday, residents age 18 and older with comorbidities and K-12 teachers of all ages will be able to get vaccinated.

OCCHD Executive Director Dr. Patrick McGough said he hopes that as this new phase opens, Oklahomans will keep in mind another part of the Oklahoma Standard, which is Honor. While there is no comorbidities documentation required, residents are expected to book their appointments based on the Honor system. Those booking appointments in the second phase who are not teachers will have some of the following conditions: hypertension, obesity, cardiovascular disease, Down syndrome, diabetes mellitus, chronic

lung, liver or renal disease, and cancers. Another group that qualifies are people at high risk of mortality and severe morbidity resulting from a COVID infection. McGough also asked for people to be kind, especially on social media. OCCHD knows the appointments will be in high demand; yet, appointments can only be scheduled when vaccine is available.

“The Oklahoma Standard calls on us to care for each other,” said McGough. “Oklahomans make national news when we display the Standard and help our neighbors. This is the ideal time to help our neighbor and the best way to do that is by being patient, being kind and being honorable.”

Residents who are in the current phasing or will become eligible on Monday can find available appointments at VaxOKC.com and on the state scheduling portal.