



NEWS RELEASE . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2020

## **OCCHD Director Dr. Patrick McGough applauds COVID-19 vaccination start**

(Oklahoma City) – Oklahoma City-County Health Department Executive Director Dr. Patrick McGough joined Oklahoma City hospital leaders, state officials and Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt to commemorate COVID-19 vaccinations beginning in Oklahoma. The Pfizer vaccine was the first vaccine delivered to Oklahoma.

OCCHD will follow the [state's vaccination plan](#) to reach the community, which was also approved by the CDC. Oklahoma County healthcare workers providing direct inpatient COVID care will receive the vaccine first, along with OCCHD's staff who work directly with COVID-19 mitigation and control activities.

OCCHD is preparing for when vaccine is widely available in large quantities at public-distribution sites, in accordance with the state's vaccination plan.

At a press conference on Monday, McGough reminded the media and others virtually attending that vaccines are the hallmark of public health and he's proud that the first doses of the state's allotted COVID-19 vaccine were given in Oklahoma City.

"We have worked hard, hand in hand, with federal, state and local officials to ensure we would be ready on day one for vaccine distribution," McGough said. "We have all put the health and safety of Oklahomans first and worked together on a plan I am proud to help implement here locally.

Our public health workers have been on the frontline throughout this pandemic and I know they will continue to do so until every vaccine dose is administered. I'm especially proud of our Oklahoma City-County Health Department staff for their preparation and commitment to ensuring Oklahoma county's vaccine campaign is organized and efficient. And lastly, I want to remind everyone in Oklahoma County to continue to wear their masks."

For more information about Oklahoma County's COVID-19 vaccine plan, visit [occhd.org/covid-19vaccine](https://occhd.org/covid-19vaccine).

OCCHD knows people will have questions and concerns about the vaccine. The department invites everyone to virtually attend a vaccine town hall event on Thursday, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Several OCCHD staff will be available to help residents better understand how safe the vaccine is and why they should get it when it's available to them. People can register for the event at [here](#).

### ***About Oklahoma City-County Health Department***

*Established in 1910, Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is committed to protecting health, promoting wellness, and preventing disease to ensure a healthy future for the Oklahoma County-area community. OCCHD was one of the first public health departments in the nation to receive accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information, please visit [www.occhd.org](http://www.occhd.org).*