



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Geauga Public Health Uses Community Partnerships to Increase Access to Vaccinations**

*Regular and wide-spread clinics allow different populations better access to COVID-19 vaccine*

COLUMBUS – Geauga County Public Health (GPH) has taken great steps to find as many community partners as possible to increase awareness of the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination and to increase vaccination rates in their county.

“Gauga Public Health has, and will continue to work collaboratively with all of our community partners ensuring all, including our most vulnerable, are afforded accessibility to the vaccine” said GPH Director of Population Health/Nursing Carol Straniero, B.A., RN.

In the past few months, GPH has partnered with many organizations to vaccinate community members, including Geauga Metropolitan Housing, the Chagrin Falls Park community center, Woman’s Safe, Inc., and the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Specifically, a partnership with the Geauga County Department on Aging helped to vaccinate home-bound citizens, another with the Geauga County YMCA to vaccinate their members, and with the Geauga County school districts to vaccinate both staff and students. On top of those clinics, GPH also regularly works with the University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center Community Outreach Team to plan and execute other clinics throughout the county and they vaccinate inmates at the Geauga County Jail on a regular basis.

To help their services better reach the Hispanic population in Geauga County, GPH also reached out to multiple nursery and landscaping businesses to vaccinate migrant workers in their community and worked with local Mexican restaurant El Patron to vaccinate non-English speaking staff and their families at two of their locations.

Innovative Ideas is a new feature from the Ohio Department of Health highlighting ways providers and organizations are encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations. You can find more featured examples on the Ohio Department of Health’s Innovative Ideas page at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/innovative-ideas>.

If you are interested in hosting a vaccination clinic, the Ohio Department of Health has a toolkit for businesses and organizations available at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program/businesses-and-organizations>. This toolkit contains a collection of resources vaccine providers and Ohio employers and organizations can consider using to build partnerships across the state to offer convenient vaccinations to their employees and members.

All Ohioans age 12 and older are currently eligible to be vaccinated. Ohioans can find additional vaccination opportunities and schedule appointments by visiting [gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov) or by calling 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). Walk-in appointments are available at many providers statewide. Anyone with questions regarding COVID-19 vaccination within the state of Ohio can learn more at [coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine).

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