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Rock Island County Health Department closing National Guard vaccination site on May 29

The Camden Centre COVID-19 mass vaccination site will close at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 29, but the health department will offer vaccinations at its Rock Island clinic twice a week starting the week of June 1.

The Camden Centre site opened March 9. About 60 National Guard soldiers, more than 20 contracted nurses from the Illinois Department of Public Health, and health department clinic staff and volunteers worked together to administer 39,672 doses, as of Saturday. At its height, more than 900 people were vaccinated every day Monday-Saturday at the Camden Centre.

“The health department is grateful for the service of the National Guard and nurses. Without them, we wouldn’t have been able to give 100,000 doses of the vaccines to Rock Island County residents. Almost 46,000 people are fully vaccinated,” said Janet Hill, chief operating officer at the Rock Island County Health Department.

“We have come so far from the dark days of 2020, but still need as many people as possible to be vaccinated to end this pandemic. We hope hundreds more people will take advantage of this quick and easy vaccination opportunity yet this week. Most people are in and out in about 20 minutes,” she said.

The National Guard and health department personnel started vaccinating employees of our largest employers in March, including Deere & Co., 3M and Exelon, before the public clinic opened at the Camden Centre. In all, 39,672 doses were administered at the National Guard-assisted clinic, as of Saturday.

“We are thankful to the people of Rock Island County who welcomed our soldiers with open arms, and we are proud of the work we were able to accomplish together,” said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the adjutant general of Illinois and Commander of the Illinois National Guard. “The Illinois National Guard are part of every community in Illinois and nowhere is that more true than in Rock Island County.”

Even though this is the last week of the Camden Centre clinic, many vaccination opportunities remain throughout the Quad Cities and region.

The health department will offer walk-in vaccine clinics twice a week at its offices at 2112 25th Ave., Rock Island. Both first and second doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will be given, as well as the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The schedule:

- Moderna and Johnson & Johnson: Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m., starting June 1
- Pfizer: Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m., starting June 4

Upcoming pop-up events include:

- Today: 12:30-4:30 p.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1501 6th Ave., East Moline
- June 5: Noon-5 p.m. at Pride at Bass Street Landing, 1701 River Drive, Moline

In addition, healthcare and pharmacy partners continue to offer all three vaccines. To find a provider, visit vaccines.gov. You can search by ZIP code and vaccine manufacturer.

The Scott County Health Department also is offering weekday walk-in Johnson & Johnson vaccination at its offices, 600 W. 4th St., Davenport, fourth floor. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is ending many mass vaccination sites around the state as the public health campaign moves to a more-targeted phase, Hill said. More doses will be sent to healthcare providers to vaccinate their patients during routine medical appointments. Pharmacies still will offer doses through their online portals.

“We and our healthcare and pharmacy partners still have much work to vaccinate as many people as possible in the Quad Cities. Almost 75% of our 65 and older population have at least one dose, and more than 41% of people ages 12-64 have been vaccinated.”

Many people 65 and older were vaccinated through the health department’s partnership with Alternatives for the Older Adult. The vast majority of those clients received their doses through the health department’s weekly clinics at the TaxSlayer Center and the Greater Quad City Auto Auction.

“This mass vaccination effort — the largest public health effort in history — has gone through many phases and required the hard work of partners all across the Quad Cities,” Hill said. “We couldn’t have gotten this far without the work and dedication of our many partners. We all will continue to work together to end this pandemic by getting as many people vaccinated as possible. Please do your part and get vaccinated.”

Rock Island County Health Department Administrator Nita Ludwig, the health department management team, Rock Island County Board of Health, and staff thank our mass vaccination partners, including the Illinois National Guard, RICHD’s Medical Reserve Corps; the Rock Island County Sheriff’s Department; the Camden Centre and director Jeanne Beuseling; Village of Milan and its police department; Advanced Medical Transport; Blackhawk Fire Protection District; Alternatives for the Older Adult; Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency; medical team members contracted by the Illinois Department of Public Health; the TaxSlayer Center; and the Greater Quad City Auto Auction.

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