

## **Press Clippings 02-06-21 to 02-08-21**

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### **---Press Clippings---02/08/2021**

**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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### **---Press Clippings---02/07/2021**

**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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### **---The Courier-News--- 02/06/2021**

## **Greater Elgin Family Care Center patients to begin receiving COVID-19 vaccinations next week**

**By: Gloria Casas**

Greater Elgin Family Care Center will start vaccinating its patients next week for COVID-19, a majority of whom are in the racial and ethnic groups hardest hit by the virus.

Vaccinations begin Monday for people in the 1B category at three clinic locations: Lake Health Center, 1515 E Lake St., Suite 202, Hanover Park; Center for Family Health, 165 E. Plank Road, Sycamore; and McHenry Community Health Center, 3901 Mercy Drive, McHenry.

Elgin residents who are center patients can receive the shots at any of the three locations, Greater Elgin President/CEO Robert Tanner said.

As soon as supplies become available, vaccinations will be given at all of their locations, including the clinic in Elgin, he said.

“We want to begin offering the vaccine to our patients in Elgin at our Elgin Health Care Center, but we do not have an adequate, consistent supply to do it,” Tanner said.

The Elgin-based nonprofit is working with the health departments in DuPage, McHenry, Kane, and DeKalb counties, which are in charge of distributing the vaccine earmarked for their communities, he said.

Vaccinations for people in the 1A category, including health care personnel and people living in long-term care facilities, will continue but the state has expanded distribution to those in the 1B category as well. That includes people who are 75 or older and non-health care front line essential workers, such as teachers.

More than 80% of Greater Elgin Family Center’s patients are racial or ethnic minorities and 98% have an income less than double the federal poverty line, Tanner said.

Based on 2018 data, the city’s population is estimated to be more than 44% Hispanic and the Black population more than 7%, according to [statisticalatlas.com](https://www.statisticalatlas.com). Both groups have been

found to be disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus, the Centers for Disease Control said.

“Many of (our patients) are living in multi-generational households and are people who have suffered from health discrepancies in the past, which is a primary reason we are offering this vaccination to our existing patients first,” Tanner said.

“We know they are people who have suffered from health care inequity in the past. We are being part of the solution,” he said.

One CDC study found that of the 114,411 COVID-19 associated deaths reported between May to August 2020, about 24% were Hispanic even though that ethnic group makes up just 18% of the country’s population.

Greater Elgin Family Care Center has been actively engaged in addressing the fight against COVID-19 in its communities, launching nasal swab testing at the beginning of the pandemic nearly a year ago and now using Abbott’s BinaxNOW rapid test, a news release said.

It’s also expanded services to offer LabCorp’s serological antibody testing, the release said.

Since the vaccines became available, Greater Elgin has helped get them to people in the 1A category, including 300 health professionals in the Elgin area, Tanner said. It has also held vaccination clinics for Community Unit School District 300 teachers and plans to do the same next week for **Elgin Area School District U-46** staff, he said.

Eligible Greater Elgin patients in the 1B category who want to receive a vaccination must make an appointment by calling 847-608-1344 or 815-363-9900.

The vaccine is available free of charge regardless of whether or not someone has insurance. For those with health insurance, the agency will bill the insurance provider.

“These appointments are exceptionally valuable so we want the patient to show up on time, otherwise there’s a danger of wasting that vaccine,” Tanner said.

Once a vial is open, it has a limited shelf life, and Greater Elgin will be taking extra steps to ensure all of it is used, he said.

Tanner added that agency patients and the public track vaccination updates through Greater Elgin Family Care Center’s social media pages and its website at [www.gefcc.org](http://www.gefcc.org).

**---Daily Herald--- 02/06/2021**

## **Greater Elgin Family Care Center to offer existing patients COVID-19 vaccinations**

**By: Rick West**

Greater Elgin Family Care Center will begin vaccinating existing patients in the 1B category for COVID-19 at three of its locations beginning Monday.

The nonprofit community health center, which has nine locations in five counties, primarily serves people whose income is less than double the federal poverty level.

"Our patients are often uninsured, often are persons of color, racial and ethnic minorities and women and children," said President/CEO Bob Tanner. It has about 90 practitioners who provide care to more than 62,000 people per year, he added.

Vaccination appointments will be accepted at Center for Family Health in Sycamore, Lake Health Center in Hanover Park and McHenry Community Health Center. Existing patients should call (847) 608-1344 or (815) 363-9900 to schedule their 30-minute appointment. The vaccine is available to insured and uninsured patients and is free.

Because the organization operates in five counties, Tanner said, officials have to work with five health departments, each with a separate system for distributing any vaccine they receive. So far, Great Elgin Family Care Center has received distributions from DuPage, McHenry and DeKalb counties.

"We hope that we're going to be able to get a supply from the Cook County and Kane County departments of health so we can also begin offering vaccine to our existing patients in our health centers in Elgin, Streamwood, Wheeling and other locations," Tanner said.

Patients in 1B from anywhere in their system can still get the vaccine from one of the three current locations.

As of now, the group anticipates having a sufficient supply of the Moderna vaccine for its existing patients. Vaccines manufactured by Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. require two doses several weeks apart.

"Poor people have long experienced structural issues that cause them to have difficulties getting access to health care," Tanner said. "This is why we're focusing on offering it to our existing patients. They're often a part of the population that is disenfranchised."

"Our hope is that we will soon thereafter get even more of a regular, consistent supply and we can begin vaccinating the general public," he added.

So far, the care center has worked to inoculate its staff, as members of the 1A category, as well as first responders and educators such as Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 last week. They'll begin vaccinating teachers from **Elgin Area School District U-46** next week.

Visit [www.gefcc.org](http://www.gefcc.org) for more information.