

## **Hunterdon Commissioners Direct Health Department To Set Up Vaccination Registration With Wait List**

### **Commissioners Waiting Their Turn For Vaccine “Like Everyone Else”**

Hunterdon County’s Board of County Commissioners has directed the County Health Department to prepare a new COVID-19 vaccination clinic registration internet platform that will allow for residents to be placed on a wait list when appointments are full.

Commissioner Shaun C. Van Doren, the Board’s liaison for the Health Department, stated at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, “The state increased eligibility for vaccination to 4 million people, while only receiving 100,000 doses per week. That math simply does not work and that is causing the registration problems.

There has been a high level of dissatisfaction, frustration and anger by the public with every registration site in the state, including the County’s.”

Van Doren said, “The Board has heard those concerns from our residents and is acting on them in authorizing a contract for a new registration platform with Kesz1 Technologies. We are advised the new portal will create a waiting list when all appointments are full.

All eligible residents should have a place in line for the clinic and sincere efforts are being made to improve the County registration system to provide vaccinations to all who desire them, when more vaccine is provided.”

Van Doren added, “None of the members of the Board of Commissioners have received vaccination, as none of us are eligible under the present criteria. We will all wait our turn, just like everyone else.”

County Health Department Director Karen DeMarco reported at the County Commissioners meeting, “There are likely over 50,000 individuals in Hunterdon County currently eligible to receive vaccine. The Hunterdon County Health Department is provided only 500 first doses of vaccine per week.

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Many individuals will not be able to secure an appointment at this time. The Health Department shares the public's frustration. There are simply too many people for too few appointments.”

County Administrator Kevin Davis reported that the cost of the \$54,150 contract with Kesz1 is reimbursable from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) according to the state.

The new platform will be available for clinic appointments and the wait list after testing is complete.