

CORONAVIRUS

# DELCO GETS A SHOT IN THE ARM



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Medical Service Corps volunteer Jennifer Moore of Secane gives Marianne Lawn of Upper Darby her vaccine.

## 1,500 vaccines delivered at pop-up clinic in Upper Darby

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**UPPER DARBY** » Delaware County officials put 1,500 Moderna COVID-19 vaccines in the arms of county residents at Upper Darby High School Sunday. The pop-up clinic, organized in just days, was the largest single-day distribution at one location to date in the county. Last weekend the county distributed 1,000 at its Aston clinic site.

The high school gymnasium was converted on short notice to a clinic by the County Emergency Services, the Delaware County Citizens Corps, the Medical Reserve Corps and Upper Darby School District.

This comes as counties around Philadelphia have complained to Gov. Tom Wolf and state officials of being shorted an equitable number of vaccines as compared to other regions in the state.

As of Sunday afternoon, 50,907 county residents have received both shots of vaccine while an additional 45,564 residents had received a first dose.

“Our Moderna allotment went up. We had been receiving 1,000 a week we went to 3,000 this week,” said State Rep. Michael Zabel, D-163 of Upper Darby, who assisted at the event. “We just learned next week our (Delaware County) Moderna doses are going to be 7,000. It’s hugely helpful and when you do it like this it allows mass distribution, it ensures equitable distribution.”

Those receiving the vaccination were called ahead of time using the county list for appointments; there were no unscheduled walk-ups.

The operation came together in just days as county officials worked with Upper Darby School District Superintendent Dan McGarry to carry out the operation. “This is the best laid plans working out,” said McGarry. “We got together to put this in place help the county.”

McGarry said that for a number of years every school district in

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Many of the people who received dozens of the Moderna vaccine at Upper Darby High School Sunday required the assistance of wheelchairs.



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Sandra Sherman of Yeadon gets her Moderna vaccine from a Delaware County Medical Reserve Corps volunteer Sunday at Upper Darby High School.



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Residents line up at Upper Darby High School.



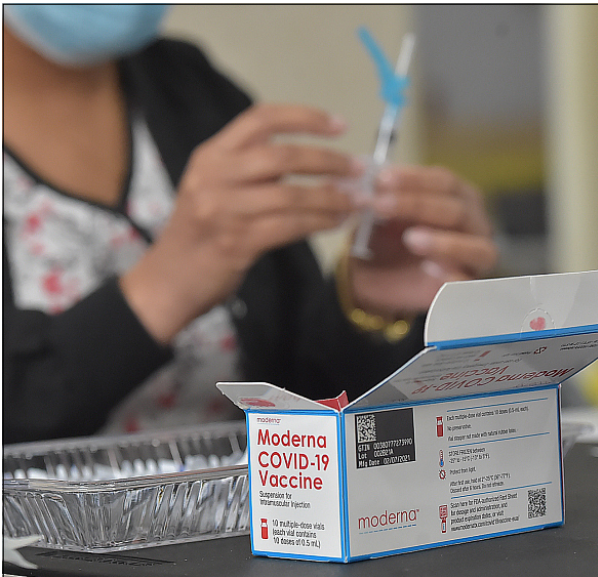
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Delaware County Citizen Corp sand Medical Corps input information to the state list for those having received the vaccine.



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Medical Corps volunteer Louise Enderle of Springfield and Stephanie Brown of General Healthcare Resources fill syringes.



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Stephanie Brown fills syringes with the Moderna vaccine.





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Filling the syringes with vaccine.



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Residents wait to get their vaccines at Upper Darby High School Sunday.

# Shot

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in Delaware County has been trained to operate as a point of distribution site in the case of the need for mass medicine distribution. More recently they have been in preparations to inoculate teachers. Late last week he was asked if they could open their pod for vaccinations and he was able to accommodate the county.

The Upper Darby site will be in operation again next week in a clinic with Delaware County Memorial Hospital and Crozer Health holding a vaccine clinic well as the follow up second shots for the people receiving this first shots Sunday.

"This really the culmination of 15 years of planning training and exercise. We've been preparing to do this for many years," said Wilbur Wolf, senior partner at Aquila Strategy & Operations Group, an emergency services consulting group to the county. "We exercised it to a degree when we had the H1N1 response in 2009, the



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A Delaware County Citizen Corps Volunteer gives a dose of Moderna vaccine to a man at Upper Darby High School Sunday.

scope of it was more limited. We train for a pill dispensing over a 48 hour time period, 100 percent of the population. These sites are set up to have that capacity."

Wolf said in addition to the frame work of plans, the relationships that allow the county to call the superintendent at short notice are important. He also credited elected officials both past and present that have understood the long term emergency planning.

"It's the culmination of a lot of work and I can't be more proud of the way Delaware County has done it," Wolf said. "After 9/11 we went through three to four years and everybody was really concerned about these things but the last 10-15 years it's been hard to get people paying attention to this kind of emergency preparedness."

"I want to shine a light, a key to this is Delaware County's tre-



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Delaware County Medical Corps volunteer Louise Enderle of Springfield fills a syringe.

mentously strong Medical Reserve Corps," said Thomas Morgan, chief of special operations for the county. "It is literally the community, serving the community. Folks from Delaware County who have stepped up, taken the responsibility that I'm going to help here, they are who makes this work. They have been involved in every one of our COVID operations they are the backbone upon we all this going. It's abso-

lutely key have the confidence in the medical reserve corps. We in emergency management can say you want me to run a 1,500 site on Sunday? We step up and can do it."

"Our goal is as soon as we get those vaccines in we get them in arms," said Delaware County Council Vice Chairman Dr. Monica Taylor. "The school district is amazing. They have so many volunteers' helps and out MRC and citizens corps and to pop this up in really short notice."

That attitude was seconded by the people getting vaccinations.

"I feel great. I tried so many places trying to get a shot it," said Marianne Lawn of Upper Darby. "I called the county hotline and they set this up."

"I feel much better," said Sandra Sherman of Yeadon, who got her shot with her husband Andrew. The two said they look forward to traveling again.

"I feel great, absolutely great," said Walter Carter, who gave thumbs up as he waited the required 15-30 minutes after getting the shot to check for any reactions.