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ACHD and National Guard Set To Host Two Vaccination Clinics Next Week

The Audrain County Health Department (ACHD) and the Missouri National Guard are teaming up once again to give Audrain County residents a chance to get the COVID-19 vaccine on Thursday and Friday of next week. Thursday's event will be for 200 appointments at the Eastern Missouri Family YMCA in Vandalia and Friday's event will be at the Audrain County Health Department office in Mexico. Both Thursday and Friday's clinics will start at 8:30 a.m. and go until 3:30 p.m.

"We are really excited to be bringing this new model of clinic to the Audrain County area," ACHD Administrator and CEO Craig Brace said. "This is essentially a scaled down version of the three mass vaccination clinics we have held in Mexico since January."

The National Guard is providing what are known as Adaptable Vaccination Teams, or AVTs, to smaller counties in the state. This team consists of two vaccinators and six support personnel from the Missouri National Guard. This team requires a lot less space to operate in so it allows area public health departments the flexibility of finding smaller venues to host the event. In each of the nine Missouri Highway Patrol regions in the state, there will be two static locations where mass vaccination clinics will still be held. In Region F, which encompasses Audrain County and 12 other mid-Missouri counties, those locations will be in Columbia and Jefferson City.

"Residents do need to register for these events through the state's portal," Brace said. "They can register and set an appointment time by going to www.covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator. Individuals can also call COVID-19 Hotline at (877) 435-8411 to schedule an appointment or vaccination confirmation information provided verbally over the phone."

Registration for each event will end the night before the event so, for Vandalia, registration will cut off Wednesday evening and for the Mexico event, registration will end Thursday evening.

"We have requested Moderna as the vaccine to be used for the clinics because that is what we use in our Monday through Thursday clinics at the health department," Brace said. "This way, if we have extra doses left over, we will be able to more readily absorb them into our existing inventory so we won't have any wasted doses."

Brace says it's partners like the Audrain County YMCA family that makes events like these happen.

"We are grateful the YMCA staff at both locations in Mexico and Vandalia are so eager and willing to help us out by providing the space to host our events," he said. "It's partnerships like these that make what we do possible out in the community helping to protect the lives of residents."

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