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MEDIA RELEASE

Date: January 8, 2021
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STATEMENT FROM WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CHAIRWOMAN REBECCA J. RYAN ON COUNTYWIDE VACCINATION EFFORTS**

As of Friday, January 8, 2021, the Wyoming County Community Health System (WCCHS), in coordination with Wyoming County Health Department, administered 99.5% (956) of the 960 doses of COVID-19 vaccine received for Phase 1A priority populations as designated by New York State. These do not include the additional doses administered to residents and staff of Wyoming County nursing homes by the retail pharmacies program through the Federal Government.

It is important to clarify the data, which the state is reporting on vaccine distribution. New York State previously reported that Wyoming County had not administered the doses designated for priority populations. There was a delay in uploading the data into the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), which tracks vaccine administration. Data is required to be input manually, and additional support has been allocated for this task. As of January 8, all vaccination information has been input into the NYSIIS tracking system.

“Our first priority is making sure that we are utilizing all of the doses that we are given for the priority populations the state has designated. Our hospital and staff continue to work very hard to serve our residents, protect high priority populations, and care for patients, said Chairwoman Rebecca Ryan, Wyoming County Board of Supervisors. “The staff at the hospital, health department, and emergency management activated their plan and moved quickly to administer available vaccines to priority populations designated by the state. This has been accomplished and as of today, no vaccines were returned or discarded.”

WCCHS and Health Department staff are now preparing for the next phases of vaccination distribution to populations determined by the New York State Vaccination Program Guidance. The Wyoming County Health Department received its 600 vaccine doses for Phase 1A populations and has reached near vaccination capacity for Phase 1A, and may begin reallocating doses if NYS does not open Phase 1B for vaccinations soon.

If you are in the priority population per the NYS Vaccination Program Phase 1A guidelines, you are currently eligible to be vaccinated. Eligibility population guidance for Phase 1A vaccinations can be found at: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine>

Those eligible in the Phase 1A population are encouraged to register online at <https://apps.health.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/cdmspr/2/counties?OpID=50501100> for the vaccination clinic scheduled for **Tuesday, January 12 from 9am to 3pm at the Wyoming County Highway Department, 4328 State Route 19, Silver Springs, NY 14550.**

Eligible individuals must sign a statement and provide proof of eligibility at the vaccination clinic (i.e. a paystub or employer issued ID tag). Additional clinics will be scheduled in the near future based on the supply of vaccine.

As a reminder, Wyoming County is experiencing high community transmission of the COVID-19 virus. It is imperative that all of our citizens take every precaution to protect each other and our most vulnerable populations. We strongly encourage the continued use of face coverings and social distancing, frequent hand washing, and avoiding people by staying home if you feel sick.

Additional information is available on the county website at <http://www.wyomingco.net/> under the **County News** heading by clicking on ***Wyoming County Press Releases (COVID-19)***, ***Genesee-Orleans-Wyoming Health Departments COVID-19 Case Tracker*** and/or ***COVID-19 Information***.

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Rebecca J. Ryan, Chairwoman
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