

Turning A Negative Into A Positive With A Single Dose

The Old Orchard Beach Fire Department Holds First Public Vaccination Clinic

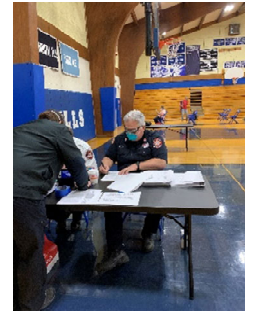
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The Town of Old Orchard Beach held a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for those age 60 and up and emergency responders on Wednesday, March 10th in the Old Orchard Beach High School gymnasium. Registration for the clinic began on Monday, March 8th. Notice of the clinic had been posted on the Town's website, Facebook and Instagram pages and on electronic signs around Town. All 275 appointments were filled by 5am on Tuesday. The Town released another 100 appointments over the day on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Online registration was required. Those without access to a computer, or who were having difficulty with the registration process, found themselves speaking to well-informed and friendly staff who assisted with phone registration. Many callers expressed their joy and gratefulness, a resident of Gorham and his wife expressed it best, "We were thrilled at how easy and seamless this was. We are happy to be done and want to thank everyone." One caller stated that this clinic was another "gold mark" on why Old Orchard Beach is a wonderful and caring town.



The Old Orchard Beach High School staff helped to get the gym set up for those coming in for their vaccination. "We are thrilled to be able to provide our 60+ age citizens and neighbors with a convenient vaccination option. We thank Chief Fred Lamontagne, Deputy Chief Robert Slaving and the Old Orchard Beach Fire Department for making this happen." - John Suttie RSU 23 Superintendent of Schools & Principal, Old Orchard Beach High School.



Staff from the Old Orchard Beach Fire Department greeted vaccine registrants as they entered the High School. Registrants were asked a series of questions while walking to the check in station. After check in, they were sent to a vaccine administration station for an injection and handed a card with injection time. After an



average 15-30-minute wait at the observation station, they were cleared to leave to enjoy the rest of the beautiful day. When asked about the process a resident of Old Orchard Beach said "It was excellent. I found out about the clinic on Facebook and signed up right away." One person was glad to be getting the single dose vaccine. He heard about the clinic through the Biddeford School Department. When asked about his experience, he was

very candid, "I wouldn't want to do this all day. Thank you to everyone here and those who helped set this day up." Words used to describe the Old Orchard Beach Vaccination Clinic included: "thrilled, fabulous, seamless, well done and thank you". Old Orchard Beach Paramedic/Firefighters were happy to assist residents and neighbors. One Paramedic remarked, "Some shed a tear after being vaccinated, others were looking forward to seeing extended family and grandchildren in the coming months. That was all the reward I needed."



Wednesday was filled with excited people lining up at the Old Orchard Beach High School. They were excited to receive the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccination!

