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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **St. Louis County Department of Public Health Announces EMS Partnership**

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO (February 11, 2021)** –The St. Louis County Department of Public Health is partnering with area fire districts and the St. Louis County Police Department Office of Emergency Management to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to about 1,000 residents and staff in group homes and other housing facilities that have not yet received vaccinations.

Fire district personnel will begin vaccinating those individuals this week. Some residents and staff will be transported to a vaccination station at a firehouse, while others will be vaccinated in their facilities by fire district staffers in mobile EMS units. DPH is supplying the vaccine and infrastructure support, and our partners are assessing needs in each center and will administer the vaccine.

Most residents of long-term care facilities in St. Louis County already received vaccines from their pharmacy providers under a federal program. The facilities being served in this new effort did not qualify for such assistance. Many of them house older residents with mobility challenges that might otherwise prevent them from getting vaccinated. Anyone in a congregant living situation is at higher risk of contracting COVID-19, and most of these residents have underlying conditions that make them more susceptible to complications from the disease.

“We are focused on our mission of protecting our most vulnerable residents, and this partnership allows us to accomplish that mission,” Spring Schmidt, DPH acting co-director, said. “We are deeply grateful to our partners for their hard work in making this much-needed service a reality.”

Fire districts participating in the program are Eureka, Pattonville, Mehlville, Affton, and Richmond Heights.

After these facilities have been served, DPH intends to expand the partnership to administer vaccinations to home-bound residents across St. Louis County.

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