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Local partnership brings vaccinations to homebound Cabarrus residents

CHA turns to the EMS Community Paramedic model to address vaccination distribution challenges.

Kannapolis, N.C. – Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA), Cabarrus County’s public health authority, has performed more than 18,897 vaccinations at its drive-thru clinics at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center. Missing from that number are thousands of locals who are unable to leave the home without considerable, taxing effort due to illness or injury.

Because homebound individuals often suffer from complex medical conditions and related issues, they are considered extremely vulnerable to COVID-19. CHA Health Director Dr. Bonnie Coyle and her team turned to Cabarrus County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for a solution.

“EMS has been an essential partner with our drive-thru vaccination clinics, providing staff to address on-site care needs,” Coyle said. “Expanding the partnership to vaccinate homebound individuals through the County’s Community Paramedic program was a natural fit.”

The EMS Community Paramedic program provides in-home, non-emergency care to patients. The County and Atrium Health launched the program in 2015 to reduce hospital readmission and cut down on calls to 911 for non-life-threatening issues. By checking in on patients in the home, community paramedics can take time to explain information, evaluate risk factors in the home, assess medication compliance and provide ongoing support and encouragement.

The program’s success led to a recent expansion to include a broader range of needs, such as mental health concerns.

COVID-19 vaccine administration fit perfectly with their established routines.

Over the past month, CHA’s vaccination team provided community paramedics with specialized training on appropriate vaccine storage and distribution. The partners rolled out a soft launch of the homebound program on February 8, and have since vaccinated 30 patients who receive regular visits from the community paramedics.

“It’s extremely important that we address accessibility issues for members of our community,” Coyle said. “The partnership with the Community Paramedics Program is a great example of how Cabarrus County comes together to serve our entire community.”

Expanding the homebound vaccination program

As supplies become available, CHA and EMS will expand the homebound vaccination program to individuals who do not receive Community Paramedic services.



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To qualify for the homebound vaccination program, individuals must:

- Be homebound (unable to physically leave their home)
- Live in geographical bounds of Cabarrus County
- Meet current eligibility requirements outlined in the state's COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan

Paramedics will also vaccinate one primary caregiver for the eligible homebound patient, who must also be in the home at the scheduled appointment time.

To complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Home Visiting Program request form, visit <https://link.zixcentral.com/u/864e4a46/pA7ceFd86xGIE7PUhnsoMg?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F2OBHhha>.

Those without internet access can call 704-920-1213.

The homebound vaccination program is not available to individuals who have transportation challenges. More information about a vaccination transportation program will be made available in the coming weeks.