

## **Draft PSA Script for COVID-19 (January 6 2021)-**

Keshi. This is Dr. Tom Faber, the Clinical Director of the Zuni IHS Hospital with an update on the COVID-19 situation in Zuni as well as an update on the COVID vaccine. This message is being recorded on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

I am happy to say that we have started to provide the COVID vaccine to the community. Our goal is to offer it to every person who wants to be vaccinated as soon as possible. Although we're doing everything we can to acquire more doses, right now we are still receiving a relatively small number of vaccines. Over the next few minutes, I'll describe our plan for vaccinating the community based on our current supply. We expect this plan to grow so that more and more people have access to the vaccine in the coming weeks and months, and we will keep up updated as vaccine access improves. I'll also plan to review some important facts that everyone should know about the COVID vaccine.

Our COVID Vaccine distribution strategy follows the CDCs Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Based on this guidance, we're first making the vaccine available to those 65 and older. This is because age is the most important risk factor for more severe COVID-19 disease. We are also making an effort to vaccinate certain frontline personnel at highest risk for contracting COVID in the line of duty, such as first responders, health care providers, and grocery store workers.

Starting today, patients aged 65 and older can call the hospital to schedule their COVID vaccine. The number to call to make this vaccine appointment is 782-7590., 782-7590. Please try to call between 1:00 pm and 4:30 pm and, for now, only for a patient who is aged 65 and older. Again, the number to call is 782-7590. You can also check out the Zuni IHS Facebook page for this number and for other updates.

We are incredibly excited to be offering COVID vaccine clinics for elders, but in order to staff these new vaccine clinics, we need to reduce the times of our Drive-Through COVID-19 testing. The new times for drive-through COVID testing are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm. In other words, weekday mornings except for Wednesdays.

During the last PSA, I described the COVID Vaccine and how it works in detail. For more information, you can always go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19). Briefly, the COVID vaccine seems to be 95% effective at preventing COVID-19 disease after exposure to the virus. There are two companies who make the vaccine, Pfizer and Moderna, and we are offering both kinds. The Pfizer vaccine requires a second, booster dose three weeks after first, and the Moderna vaccine requires a booster dose four weeks after the first dose. Both vaccines appears to be very safe with side effects being mild and typical of other vaccines, including a sore arm, fatigue and headache that lasts 1-2 days.

While the COVID vaccine is very promising, it's still critically important that we all remember the fundamentals of prevention:

- wear a mask anytime you leave your house or are around others outside your household.
- stay at least six feet apart from others outside your household.
- clean your hands often with soap and water or a hand sanitizer
- clean high touch surfaces often
- Get tested if you are in contact with someone with COVID-19 or if you develop symptoms like fever, cough, sore throat, upset stomach, or loss of smell.
- and strictly isolate yourself if you are positive or were exposed to someone with COVID-19.

As always, our COVID Hotline is available to answer your questions and can be reached at 782-7591 Monday- Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Of course, our urgent care clinic and ER remain open 24/7 to help you if you feel sick.

Thanks for your attention. If you or a loved one is 65 or older, remember to call 782-7590 to schedule your COVID-19 vaccination. Over the coming weeks to months, we hope to have enough vaccine to offer it to everyone who wants it. We sincerely hope that 2021 will be when we turn the tide on this pandemic, but in the meantime, please remember to remain vigilant and take measures to protect yourself and the community.

Thank you