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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Health Department Receives First Shipment of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine** *health care personnel identified as priority group*

**NICHOLASVILLE, Ky.** – On Wednesday morning, Jessamine County Health Department (JCHD) staff successfully administered a set of its first 400 dose shipment of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to eligible health care personnel employed at the Health Department and Jessamine County Emergency Medical Services (EMS). JCHD Executive Director, Randy Gooch as well as EMS Director, Jamie Goodpaster, Jessamine County Judge Executive, David West and State Parks Commissioner, former State Representative and Nicholasville Mayor, Russ Meyer were among those vaccinated.

“This is a tremendous public health milestone,” said Randy Gooch, Executive Director of JCHD. “Vaccinations have long been one of the most effective public health tools for preventing disease and premature death. The FDA’s emergency authorization of these vaccines gives me confidence they are safe and will be the most effective tool we have to ultimately defeat COVID-19. I hope everyone will be vaccinated when it comes your turn,” Gooch added.

The Health Department is following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) COVID-19 vaccines priority phased approach, which includes 3 phases. The current “jumpstart” phase, or Phase1a, will focus on vaccinating non-hospital health care personnel, such as first responders, those that work in urgent treatment centers or primary and specialized health care offices. These health care personnel have been prioritized as having increased risk of COVID-19 exposure. The next phases will more than likely begin in the next couple of months, with Phase1b focusing on frontline essential workers as well as persons 75 years and older, and phase1c including other essential workers and persons 65-74 years old along with persons 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions. After which, phases 2 and 3 will then integrate members from the general public.

The community is asked to be patient over the upcoming months as JCHD vaccinates priority populations that are at increased risk or high-risk of COVID-19 exposure. As soon as the vaccine becomes widely available, JCHD will be well prepared to mass vaccinate Jessamine County residents.

In the meantime, everyone is urged to continue to practice everyday prevention measures to help fight the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay home from work, school, and community gatherings when you are sick.
- Avoid large gatherings and crowded places.
- Wear a face mask in public.
- Get your flu shot.

JCHD is posting the latest vaccine information, guidance for the public and updating case counts daily at [www.jessaminehealth.org/covid19](http://www.jessaminehealth.org/covid19).