



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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Phoebe Tops 10,000 COVID-19 Vaccinations

Albany, Ga. – Phoebe will reach a milestone in its COVID-19 vaccination effort Tuesday, surpassing 10,000 vaccinations. Through Monday, the health system had administered 9,326 vaccines at vaccination sites in Albany, Americus and Sylvester, and it expected to provide at least 1,100 more Tuesday. “We want to continually grow our capacity to put shots in arms and protect more southwest Georgians from this virus. The work that has gone into our vaccination effort is truly incredible, and it’s running like clockwork,” said Scott Steiner, Phoebe Putney Health System President & CEO. “The one potential disruption to our plan is the vaccine supply. We’re just not sure when we’ll get additional deliveries of vaccines or how many we’ll receive, but we will continue to push full steam ahead and remain optimistic that vaccine supply will keep up with demand,” Steiner added.

Phoebe began administering vaccines to healthcare workers on Dec. 17, 2020 and opened community vaccination sites in Albany, Americus and Sylvester on Jan. 11, 2021 for southwest Georgians who are 65 and older. Based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health, only healthcare workers, first responders, those at least 65 years old and certain caregivers are currently eligible to receive the vaccine.

Phoebe has received countless compliments on the ease and efficiency of the vaccination process. “The vaccination process was wonderful,” said Nancy Morris who got her shot at Phoebe’s largest vaccination site at Healthworks, Phoebe’s employee gym and wellness center adjacent to its main hospital. “We really appreciate that there were people outside to get us to the right place. Everybody was friendly, smiling and very, very nice,” Morris added.

Ronnie Cook agreed. “It was great. I got right in and right out, and everybody was super nice,” he said.

“It went so smoothly. I had a wonderful experience. It couldn’t have gone any better, and I advise everyone to get this shot,” said Velma Coley.

Phoebe is also now offering a mobile registration option for southwest Georgians who want to schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments. The new service allows people to handle the registration process with their smart phone in the palm of their hands. It does not replace the Phoebe COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline. “It is important for us to vaccinate as many people as possible quickly, and we are constantly looking for ways to help us do that. People eligible to receive the vaccine can still call 229-312-1919 and talk to a real person right here at Phoebe to schedule an appointment. The mobile option simply allows us to expand our capacity and make sure we’re filling every available vaccination appointment,” said Dianna Grant, MD, Phoebe Putney Health System Chief Medical Officer.

Southwest Georgians who would like to use the mobile registration option should download the Phoebe Access App from the App Store or Google Play, then click on the COVID-19 vaccination registration link to begin the mobile scheduling process. Phoebe is also making plans to begin offering COVID-19 vaccinations at certain Phoebe Physicians primary care clinics and will release those details soon.

Even as the vaccination process progresses, the region remains in the middle of a serious and deadly winter surge of COVID-19 cases. As of noon Tuesday, these were Phoebe’s COVID-19 numbers:

- Total COVID-19 Patients in Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital – 105
- Total COVID-19 Patients in Phoebe Sumter Medical Center – 21
- Total COVID-19 Patients in Phoebe Worth Medical Center – 0
- Total Inpatients Recovered – 1,748
- Total Positive Deaths from Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital – 221
- Total Positive Deaths from Phoebe Sumter – 52
- Total Vaccines Administered – 9,326



