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Walberg Pharmacies to get hundreds of vaccines

Planning clinics in coming days

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By CALEB STRIGHT

Within the next few days, Walberg Family Pharmacies anticipates having enough COVID-19 vaccines to inoculate hundreds of Mercer County residents.

As of Thursday night, Walberg owner Bretton Walberg said several of the details – including the date and location of the clinics – would be dependent on when he receives his first shipment, but he said that could happen as early as today.

“We’re excited,” he said. “As soon as we have the vaccines in our hands, we’ll release the details.”

Through McKesson Pharmaceuticals, Walberg said he would be receiving hundreds of doses of the Moderna vaccine as early as today, and if not today, likely Monday. Due to the demand, Walberg said, at least in this round, the clinics won’t be able to be held at the Walberg pharmacies themselves. There just wouldn’t be enough room to socially distance.

They’ve organized locations for the clinics in Mercer County, which they’ll finalize and announce, once they’ve received the doses.

To help handle the demand, Walberg will be utilizing an online sign-up service, that he said is not only designed for the security of medical records, but has been used in similar sign-ups in the past.

Everyone registering will have to utilize the Web site, which could be released as early as today, and he encouraged family and friends to help out seniors and others that might need assistance with the Web to sign up.



Walberg

To receive a vaccine, that person has to be eligible. Under the state's vaccine rollout plan, currently, health care and long-term care workers, anyone over the age of 65, and anyone over the age of 18 with high risk conditions, can get a shot.

"Don't be discouraged if you don't get through on the first round," Walberg said.

His company has multiple orders in, and if all goes as planned, "our county will be in good shape."

"Senator (Michele) Brooks has been really instrumental in enabling our county to get the vaccine," Walberg said. "Kudos to her."

Brooks, chair of the Pa. Senate Health & Human Services Committee, said she's been working to enable more local pharmacies to administer the vaccine.