
CLEVELAND COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

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\$50 Visa Gift Cards for First and Second Doses

Cleveland County Incentivizes COVID-19 Vaccine for County Residents

SHELBY, NC – In an effort to increase the percent of Cleveland County residents who are fully vaccinated, Cleveland County Commissioners authorized use of grant dollars to launch a COVID-19 vaccine incentive program for Cleveland County residents. This local program is similar to the NCDHHS Summer Card program that concluded at the end of August. Beginning October 4, 2021, any Cleveland County resident twelve years of age or older who receives a first or second dose COVID-19 vaccine will receive a \$50 Visa gift card. Children between the ages of 12-15 must have a parent or legal guardian present to consent to the vaccine and to receive the gift card on the child's behalf. Cards will be available while supplies last.

You may schedule an appointment for the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccine at the Cleveland County Health Department by calling 980-484-6019. Cleveland County residents who receive their first or second dose vaccine at a provider other than the Cleveland County Health Department on or after October 4th, may bring proof of their vaccine to the Cleveland County Health Department to receive their \$50 gift card while supplies last.

Currently, in Cleveland County, 49% of the population ages 12+ is fully vaccinated, compared to 61% of the population ages 12+ in North Carolina as a whole.

“Our county’s vaccination rate continues to lag behind the rest of the state of North Carolina,” said Tiffany Hansen, Cleveland County Health Director. “When comparing our county’s daily case rates and test positivity rates to other counties with higher vaccination rates, we see that our county’s case and test positivity rates are significantly higher. Furthermore, in just the past five weeks, a total of 44 Cleveland County residents have died from COVID-19. Of these, only five were vaccinated, meaning approximately 89% of all COVID-19 deaths in Cleveland County since the third week in August have been unvaccinated.”

The COVID-19 vaccine continues to be highly effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, anyone under the age of 12 doesn't have the option to get a COVID-19 vaccine yet. They are relying on others to get their shots to protect them and help keep them healthy and in school.

“We hope offering an incentive will help increase vaccination rates,” said Doug Bridges, Chair of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners. “We are also hopeful that incentivizing the second dose in addition to the first dose will help close the gap between those who are partially vaccinated and those who are fully vaccinated, giving them the highest level of protection possible.”

If you would like to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine for children and teens, please visit: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/teenvaxfacts>.

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