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Press Release

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Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES CITIZENS TO BE PROTECTED

The Logan County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) is urging citizens to be protected from the risk of acquiring COVID-19 or spreading the virus as efforts continue to vaccinate the community. Yesterday, in a news release from the State, Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health stated, "The pandemic is not over and as long as the virus is allowed to circulate, it can mutate and form new variants. We need to slow the virus' activity – and the best way to do that is through vaccination."

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health database, in Logan County, 37.97% of people ages 16-64 are fully vaccinated compared to 77.94% of people 65 and older. Although statewide, Logan County ranks far from the bottom in this category, there is still room for improvement as many citizens remain unvaccinated. LCDPH continues to offer immunization clinics and encourages citizens to enroll as time slots are available. There is no out-of-pocket charge for the vaccine. You can register to receive your vaccine by going the health department website at <u>WWW.lcdph.org</u> to enroll for a clinic. If you do not have internet access, you can call the health department at 217-735-2317 to make an appointment.

On June 17, 2021, the State announced they are launching a \$10 million "All In for the Win" promotion to reward Illinois residents who have been vaccinated. Illinois residents who have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose are automatically entered into a lottery for \$7 million in cash prizes for adults, which includes prizes of up to \$1 million, and \$3 million in scholarships for youth. There are no sign ups or forms needed to enter. The first drawing takes place July 8th. People are encouraged to get vaccinated before July 1st to ensure they are entered into every drawing. For more details regarding the State of Illinois reward program including the drawing schedule, visit their website at www.allin.illinois.gov. In addition to the Illinois reward program, LCDPH is offering free Six Flags tickets to vaccine recipients ages 12-15 but supplies are limited.

As phase 5 continues, LCDPH is encouraging those who are not fully vaccinated to continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing when in public as recommended per Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines.

LCDPH continues to encourage everyone to get vaccinated and to take advantage of the clinics they are offering. For more information on how you can get vaccinated, visit their website at www.lcdph.org or call them at 217-735-2317.