

Meijer Pharmacies Prepare for Eventual COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

Grand Rapids, Mich.-based retailer listed as a partner pharmacy for U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to increase access to future COVID-19 vaccines

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 14, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- As more pharmaceutical manufacturers move closer to approved COVID-19 vaccines, pharmacies within Meijer locations are gearing up for an extensive vaccine administration program throughout its six-state footprint.

"Throughout this pandemic our stores and store teams have played an important role in supporting communities throughout the Midwest," Meijer President & CEO Rick Keyes said. "We are aggressively preparing for the next phase of this challenge, which will be to ensure our communities have the ability to quickly and safely obtain a COVID-19 vaccine once they become available."

To maximize access to COVID-19 vaccines for all Americans, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced the U.S. government's partnership with numerous pharmacies such as Meijer. Pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians routinely provide vaccinations in retail and grocery stores. Therefore, the federal government has recognized pharmacy vaccinators as crucial public health partners for increasing access and convenience of COVID-19 vaccines.

"I'm very proud of our Meijer team and our partnership with the CDC and HHS to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to our communities once its available," Meijer Vice President of Pharmacy Jason Beauch said. "Our pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians throughout the Midwest continue to prepare for the unprecedented challenge of vaccinating a very large number of people in the near future."

As it prepares for vaccines to eventually be distributed, Meijer is focusing on a variety of initiatives to help it seamlessly provide COVID-19 vaccines to a large number of patients. This includes the development of specific technical solutions to help the retailer to manage both the volume of patients and the need for follow up to ensure patients receive a second dose in a timely manner when required.

Additionally, the company is looking at physical spaces and locations for large-scale clinics, similar to the seasonal flu shot clinics the retailer conducted this Fall at large stadiums and outdoor locations. Meijer also has the potential to host COVID-19 clinics inside its stores, as many of its stores are more than 200,000 square feet.

The Meijer Pharmacy Team recently went mobile to ensure anyone who may not have had easy access to a seasonal flu shot was able to get vaccinated. While the seasonal flu shot cannot protect against the coronavirus, it can help protect individuals and reduce the potential for symptoms that could be confused with COVID-19, Beauch said.

Throughout October and November, the Meijer Pharmacy team held [98 community flu shot clinics](#) across Michigan, administering more than 3,000 doses of the flu vaccine provided by the State of Michigan. The clinics were held at university campuses such as Grand Valley State University, along with food pantries and churches, apartment complexes and stadium parking lots, including Comerica Park in Detroit and Jackson Field in downtown Lansing. The Meijer pharmacy team also conducted a flu shot clinic in Indianapolis at Lucas Oil Stadium.

About Meijer: Meijer is a Grand Rapids, Mich.-based retailer that operates 256 supercenters and grocery stores throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Wisconsin. A privately-owned and family-operated company since 1934, Meijer pioneered the "one-stop shopping" concept and has evolved through the years to include expanded fresh produce and meat departments, as well as pharmacies, comprehensive apparel departments, pet departments, garden centers, toys and electronics. For additional information on Meijer, please visit www.meijer.com. Follow Meijer on Twitter [@Meijer](#) and [@MeijerPR](#) or become a fan at facebook.com/meijer.

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