



RICE COUNTY

320 Third Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021

PRESS RELEASE

February 3, 2022

Free N99 mask distribution in Rice County

Rice County Public Health continues to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics for those 5 years and older

Beginning Friday, Feb. 4, free N99 adult face masks will be available at various locations throughout Rice County. Supplies will be limited to one to two masks per person. These free masks were obtained by Rice County Public Health from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Individuals can pick up masks for themselves and members of their household at locations listed below. Each site may have varying distribution hours. No identification is required.

- City Halls: Dundas, Faribault, Lonsdale, Morristown and Nerstrand
- Libraries: Faribault, Lonsdale and Northfield
- Faribault Community Center
- Rice County Government Services Building

“Wearing a mask that is of higher quality, like a KN95, N95 or N99, reduces the chance of both catching and spreading COVID-19. It is important to wear a mask properly, which includes a snug fitting mask which fully covers the nose, mouth and chin area,” says Tracy Ackman-Shaw, Rice County Public Health’s Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

Both the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend all individuals, vaccinated and unvaccinated, wear a well-fitted mask over their nose and mouth in public indoor settings.

In addition to masking, getting vaccinated is the best protection from severe COVID-related illness.

“COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are free for everyone and widely available in our community,” says Rice County Public Health Director Deb Purfeerst. “Now is a great time to get vaccinated if you haven’t already done so, or if you are due for a booster.”

COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone 5 years and older. Booster shots are recommended for people ages 12 years and older. The interval between the primary series and the booster is dependent on the vaccine that was administered for the primary series — five-month spacing after receiving either the Pfizer or Moderna primary series; two-month spacing after the J&J one-dose vaccination.

Anyone who would like to be vaccinated at Rice County Public Health should register online at www.co.rice.mn.us/528/GET-VACCINATED-COVID-19. Pre-registration is encouraged, however walk-ins are allowed.

If you need help registering online or have questions, call Rice County Public Health at 507-333-3818, 507-332-5911, 507-332-5922 or 507-332-5928 and someone will help you register or answer your questions.

CONTACTS:

Tracy Ackman-Shaw, Rice County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, 507-332-5921
Deb Purfeerst, Rice County Public Health Director, 507-332-5914

Sara Folsted, Rice County Administrator, 507-332-6121