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Booster shots popular at county vaccination clinics

ALBANY — Megan Jones, 21, was happy about getting her Pfizer COVID-19 booster shot January 6 at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center.

“I want to protect myself and other people,” Jones said as Medical Reserve Corps volunteer Carol Gresham administered her shot.

Jones’ fiance’ Alex Goth got his booster shot as well.

Linn County Public Health reinstated vaccination clinics starting January 4, after focusing on individual appointments through the county’s mobile unit for several months. Statewide, the number of new COVID-19 cases has been climbing rapidly due to the omicron variant. There was a record 7,615 on Thursday. Linn County has had 16,724 cases and 209 deaths.

Neva Anderson, the county’s Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, said volunteers and county staff have ample supplies of all three vaccines — J & J, Pfizer and Moderna. Although first and second doses are available, Anderson said the majority of shots are boosters.

The county is not providing COVID-19 tests.

“People are thankful they don’t have to wait in line,” Anderson said. “It’s been a steady flow and most people are in and out in less than 20 minutes.”

Anderson said people are concerned about the new omicron COVID-19 variant because it is so easily transmitted and is so tiny, cloth masks are not considered an effective deterrent.

Anderson said more than 600 shots had been given from Tuesday until about noon on Thursday.

Mid-Valley Media Reporter Troy Shinn completed a vaccination trifecta. Medical Reserve Corps volunteer Steven Hammond of Albany had given Shinn his first two doses of the Pfizer vaccine months ago and Thursday, he administered Shinn’s booster shot as well.

As of Friday, Linn County is now able to administer Pfizer booster shots to children 12 to



Above: Medical Reserve Corps volunteer Carol Gresham administers a COVID-10 booster shot to Megan Jones of Albany Thursday afternoon at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center. **Below left:** Reporter Troy Shinn receives a booster shot administered by volunteer Steven Hammond. **Below Right:** Michelle Becker of Samaritan Health Services prepares a vaccination dose.



15 years of age.

The vaccination clinics will continue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. January 10 to 14 and January 17 to 19.

Linn County will provide shots for children ages 5 to 11 from 3 to 7 p.m. on January 10 at the Albany Fire Station 11 and for all ages from 3 to 7 p.m. on January 11.

Shots will be given at the Albany Police Station from 4 to 6 p.m. January 17 and January 24.

Walk-ins are welcome, no appointments needed.

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