



**One Year Anniversary of COVID-19 vaccine given in Eau Claire County**  
***Local healthcare and public health strongly recommend vaccination***

December 16, 2021

Greetings Eau Claire Community:

As we approach the two-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize the fatigue we are feeling as an entire community. This stems, in part, from missed events and opportunities resulting from the pandemic. Many of us have also suffered losses of friends and family members during this time, and that loss is magnified during the holiday season.

Despite these challenges, on December 17<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the one-year anniversary of vaccines being available in Eau Claire County to help save lives and prevent major illness caused by COVID-19. More than 120,000 doses have been given to Eau Claire County residents in this time.

**As healthcare providers and public health workers, patient care and community health continue to be our top priority.** We are thankful to be your trusted source of information when it comes to caring for the health of your family on any topic. This year, we strongly encourage you to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 by **getting a vaccine or booster dose as soon as you are eligible.** This includes school-age children as young as five years old. Nearly 1 in 4 children aged 5-11 have already been vaccinated in Eau Claire County. Talk with your doctor or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to schedule your vaccine or booster.

Being fully vaccinated:

- Protects you or your child from serious illness caused by COVID-19
- Makes you less likely to spread COVID-19 to others in your home and community
- Minimizes the time you may need to spend in quarantine if someone near you tests positive

We know you may have questions, and we're here to help you find answers. Please reach out to your doctor at any time with your questions or concerns so that you can have peace of mind.

Sincerely,

Lieske Giese, Director  
**Eau Claire City-County  
 Health Department**

Andy Barth, President and CEO  
**HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital**

Bill Priest, MS, MHA, FACHE, Chief  
 Administrative Officer  
**Marshfield Medical Center – Eau Claire**

Richard Helmers, M.D., Regional Vice President  
 Jason Craig, Regional Chair of Administration  
 Pam White, Chief Nursing Officer  
**Mayo Clinic Health System in Northwest Wisconsin**

Ashok Rai, M.D., President and CEO  
 Ken Johnson, M.D., Chief Medical Officer,  
 VP of Clinical Administration  
**Prevea Health**