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NEWS RELEASE

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COVID-19 Vaccine Offered Educators in Partnership with Houston Healthcare and Houston County Health Department



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County School District has partnered with Houston Healthcare and the Houston County Health Department to give a COVID-19 vaccine to any district employee who wants the vaccination. Teachers and support staff are receiving the vaccine at their schools by Houston Healthcare, and employees based elsewhere are given appointments during the workday for the Houston County Health Department’s drive-thru vaccination center.

School-based clinics began Mar. 9, 2021, with Houston Healthcare offering vaccinations at 11 schools this first week. By Mar. 24, Houston Healthcare will have visited all 39 campuses and given close to 2,000 vaccines. Additional employees are receiving a vaccine through the Health Department, which began giving educators the vaccine on Mar. 8. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Scott is pictured with Chris Sikes, the County Nurse Manager for the Houston County Health Department, at the drive-through center.

“I am very thankful for the partnership the school district has with both the Houston County Health Department and Houston Healthcare to provide vaccines for our teachers and staff,” said Dr. Scott. “Their employees have been on the frontline for the past year; however, their commitment to the citizens of Houston County has not wavered. They have gone above and beyond to make the vaccine administration process as easy as possible for our school district employees. I extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Chris Sikes with the Houston County Health Department and Charles Briscoe with Houston Healthcare.”

The goal is to administer as many vaccines as possible by Mar. 26, the Friday before spring break. Approximately 2,400 school district employees will receive a COVID-19 vaccine this month through the partnerships with the Houston County Health Department and Houston Healthcare. In addition, 365 district employees ages 65 and older had an opportunity to get the vaccine in January through the health department, plus other educators have received or scheduled the vaccine through a

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healthcare provider. In February, a COVID-19 vaccination survey was sent to the district's 4,300 full-time employees; of the 76% who responded, 62% wanted the vaccine.

On Mar. 9, Dr. Scott visited the first COVID-19 clinic at Warner Robins High School to personally thank the Houston Healthcare vaccination team for bringing the vaccine to educators at school. Pictured (from left) are: Tim Bennett, Manager, Infection Prevention and Control; Phillip Gilbert, Director of Pharmacy; Denise Joyner, Paramedic; Dr. Scott; Dr. Dan Stewart, Vice President, Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer; Ashley Lee, RN, Manager, Employee Relations and Training; Wendy Minicozzi, Revenue Cycle Manager; Charles Briscoe, President and Chief Executive Officer; Fred Graham, Chairman, Houston Hospitals Board of Trustees; and Melissa Phagan, Chief of Staff.

Please visit our district social media platforms to view more photos. For additional information, contact Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, at Zabrina.Cannady@hcbe.net.

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