

# First responders get the first (COVID) shots

For months, the conversations about the best hope for ending the coronavirus pandemic have centered around finding a vaccine. Wearing masks and social distancing are wearing on people, and new strains of COVID-19 have sent cases to the highest levels since the virus emerged in the United States nearly a year ago. On Jan. 13, the COVID-19 vaccine arrived in Duxbury for a first responder vaccine clinic. A joint effort by the Duxbury Board of Health, Duxbury Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps and the Duxbury Fire Department took

place in the Duxbury High School gym Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. The team had 480 doses of the Moderna vaccine for first responders from Carver, Duxbury, Hanover, Kingston, Marshfield, Pembroke and Plympton.. Stations were spread out around the DHS gym with plenty of space between stations. The bleachers were used as a waiting area for after the injection to make sure no one had an adverse reaction.

Duxbury Fire Captain/EMT Brian Monahan, Commander of the clinic, said Wednesday, “The whole op-

eration is running smoothly. The days and weeks of prior planning really paid off.” Duxbury’s Board of Health Agent and Duxbury Bay Area Regional Medical Reserve Corps. Coordinator Tracy Mayo and Monahan credited the volunteers with the MRC for making the clinic possible. In addition to getting nearly 500 regional first responders vaccinated, Monahan said, “Partnering with other communities tests our emergency planning and is great real-time training in case of a large-scale emergency or planned event.”

Whether Duxbury will see similar clinics for the broader population remains unclear. Mayo and Monahan are open to it but see logistical hurdles in terms of space and manpower. Additionally, they do not know how the State will roll out the next phases of vaccine distribution. Duxbury

Fire Department Captain/Paramedic Robert Reardon said, “It is important to vaccinate first responders as quickly as possible. In the spring, the fire department periodically transported people with COVID-19 to the hospital but now, “We transport COVID-19 patients every day.”



Duxbury Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Heath holds up a bottle of Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine.

Photos and story by Karen Wong



Robin and John Tsolas, volunteers with the Duxbury Bay Area Regional Medical Reserve Corps, along with volunteer coordinator Sue Borden, check-in other volunteers arriving through the middle school entrance.



Duxbury School Resource Officer Kathleen McIlroy gets vaccinated by Duxbury Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Heath. McIlroy said she was a little nervous because she is a nursing mother. Her doctor assured her getting vaccinated was safe.



Duxbury FF/Paramedic Harry Mathews looks up a name and adds some information about MRC volunteer coordinator Robin Tsolas who is the next person scheduled. DXFD FF/Paramedic Keith Nette and DXFD FF/Paramedic Kevin Heath look on.



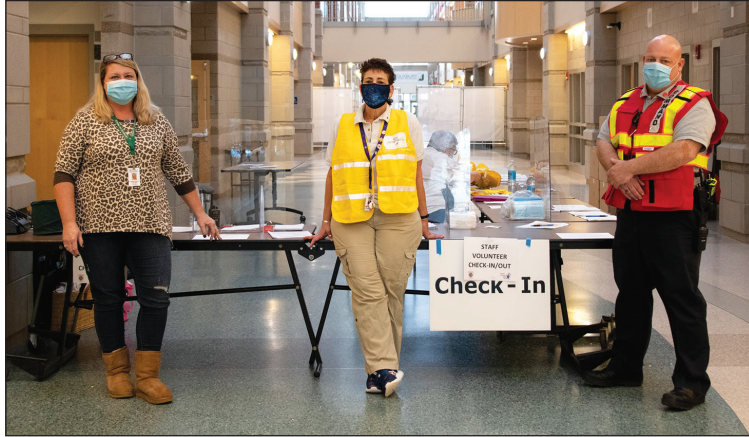
Duxbury FF/Paramedic Kevin Heath vaccinates Duxbury Police Sergeant Christopher Mori Wednesday afternoon.



People with appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine, go through a multi-step check-in process with stops for a medical screening, registration and a final ID check once inside the gym, according to Duxbury Health Agent Tracy Mayo. At left, Lisa Kaufman, Assistant Coordinator for the Duxbury Bay Area Regional Medical Reserve Corps.



Duxbury Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps volunteer coordinator Robin Tsolas was excited to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Duxbury FF/Paramedic Kevin Heath gives the vaccination.



Duxbury Bay Area Regional Medical Reserve Corp Coordinator Tracy Mayo, MRC Assistant Coordinator Lisa Kaufman and Duxbury Captain Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Monahan oversaw the clinic.



Duxbury Fire Department Captain/Paramedic Robert Reardon and Duxbury Fire Captain/EMT Brian Monahan, Commander of the clinic share a light moment before meeting up with members of their team.



The Duxbury High School gym was transformed into a vaccine clinic with attention to social distancing. Pre-scheduled appointments were necessary for the 480 first responders from Carver, Duxbury, Hanover, Kingston, Marshfield, Pembroke and Plympton.