

COVID-19 VACCINE QUESTION & ANSWER GUIDE

Use this question and answer sheet to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine.

IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE?

COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trials to make sure they met safety standards. Many people were recruited to participate in these trials to see how the vaccines offer protection to people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as those with different medical conditions.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) carefully review all safety data from clinical trials before recommending any COVID-19 vaccine for use. FDA and CDC will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, to make sure even very rare side effects are identified.

WHEN CAN I GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

The first supply of COVID-19 vaccine became available in mid-December. This initial vaccine supply is limited, and therefore allocated to healthcare personnel and long-term care (LTC) residents and staff. The vaccine supply will increase over time and all adults should be able to be vaccinated in 2021.

MY FAMILY MEMBER WAS OFFERED A VACCINE THROUGH THEIR EMPLOYER. WHY CAN'T THE REST OF MY FAMILY GET THE VACCINE?

Because vaccine will be very limited when it first comes out, administration will be limited to those identified in prioritized (high-risk) groups. This is to ensure that all individuals in the high-risk groups are able to receive the vaccine. As more vaccine becomes available, those groups eligible to receive the vaccine will expand.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I MISS THE SECOND DOSE?

The first dose of the vaccine will provide some protection, but the recommendation is to receive two doses to be protected as intended. Make sure to opt. in to email or text message reminders if available.

DO I NEED A VACCINE IF I HAVE ALREADY HAD COVID-19?

We are still learning about COVID-19. At this time, there is not enough information available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again; this is called natural immunity. More studies are needed to better understand how long natural immunity lasts with COVID-19.

REGION 1

Local Health Departments



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Boone County
Health Department



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Jo Daviess County Health Department



For more information, visit:
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>

(Last Updated: 12/16/2020)

WHERE CAN CHILDREN UNDER 16 GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Currently, a pediatric vaccine is not available, and it may be some time before one is approved and becomes available. Clinical trials need to be conducted with children before determining if the existing COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for them.

HOW DO I GET UPDATES ON THE COVID-19 VACCINE(S)?

Visit your local health department's website or social media page to find out more information about the COVID-19 vaccines. As additional vaccine becomes available, your local health department will allocate vaccine based on risk of serious illness and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

For additional information visit the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) website:

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>

IS THERE A COVID-19 VACCINE WAITING LIST I CAN GET ON?

At this time, there is no waiting list to receive COVID-19 vaccine. The limited amount of vaccine that will be available in Region 1 in 2020 will be distributed to healthcare workers who treat COVID-19 patients and older adults living in long-term care facilities first. The local health departments will keep the community updated as vaccination efforts continue to other populations. Check your local health department's social media and website for updated information.

HOW IS THE REGION RECEIVING THE Pfizer VACCINE?

The vaccine is distributed by the IDPH to local health departments via the 10 Regional Hospital Coordinating Centers (RHCC) located throughout the state. Mercyhealth serves as the RHCC for Region 1. Local health departments will allocate the vaccine to the hospitals and the community.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS VACCINE COST ME?

There is no cost for the vaccine. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

IF I GET THE VACCINE, CAN I QUIT WEARING A MASK?

At this time, we are asking the public to continue wearing masks even if they have received the vaccine. As we learn more about immunity and the vaccine is widely available, this could change, but we are not at that point yet.

FOR OTHER QUESTIONS:

Please refer to the IDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for the most updated information available online at: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>

The local health departments in Region 1 are continuing to plan for the larger population to be vaccinated. We do not have all the information yet available to provide. We ask that you check back with us as we get closer to vaccine being available for the larger population. You can find updates on your local health department website and/or social media pages.