

New FAQs – December 23, 2020

- 1. Many people who are getting the COVID-19 vaccine experience extreme muscle aches, chills, or soreness and a low grade fever for some. I am certain AltaMed will encourage us all to get vaccinated, and I am glad. However, I want to know what AltaMed is planning to offer for employees who get severe symptoms and can't come into work. Will we get extra PTO? Will clinic employees be vaccinated on different days to prevent a staff shortage if people need to call out?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Employees are entitled to the 80 hours of C19PSL time, which can be used for COVID situations, including a reaction. At this time, we do not anticipate creating a separate PTO bank for vaccine reactions. As for vaccinating on different days, this is something we will definitely keep in mind once vaccines become available.

- 2. Why are we not allowed to wear cloth masks at Corporate when the CDC states that surgical masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders. (From CDC web: Do NOT use a mask meant for a healthcare worker. Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.) Or, are the masks provided daily at Corporate "not surgical masks?"*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Decisions about PPE are based on CDC and CDPH recommendations. The surgical mask is the required mask for employees of AltaMed while there is still a good supply of medical grade masks. Our temporary masking policy, HR-WEL-007, mentions that if medical grade masks end up in short supply, employees are encouraged where clinically permitted and consistent with CDC guidelines to use a cloth face covering. We are not yet there, so we continue to require the surgical mask.

- 3. I know acute care hospitals are the absolute first places where the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines will be administered. Where is AltaMed on the Phase 1a timeline? As an Urgent Care provider at Commerce, Goodrich, I know we have been seeing an uptick in cases and I just want to know in which order the LACDPH and other health departments see us with respect to receiving the vaccine. If there is an expected timeline, please let us know. Thank you.*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Per the timeline below from the Community Clinic Association of LA County, we expect to be given the COVID-19 vaccine at the end of December or early January to distribute to staff. This is an approximate timeline which may change depending on the ever changing pandemic environment.

With Pfizer in distribution and Moderna on the way, here is the timeline for distribution in LA.

Week of 12/14

- 82,875 Pfizer doses arrived in LA County
- Vaccines were shipped to 9 sites across the county and re-packaged then allocated to all 83 acute care hospitals

Week of 12/21

- 116,300 Moderna doses (contingent on EUA) to arrive in LA County
 - o Vaccines prioritized for EMS providers and skilled nursing facilities staff and residents
- 80,000 Pfizer doses
 - o Vaccines prioritized for additional acute care hospital staff

Week of 12/28: Vaccine quantity unknown but doses prioritized for:

- Correctional health facility staff and psychiatric hospitals
- Non-skilled nursing facility long-term care facilities staff and residents
- Dialysis center staff
- Ambulatory care workers (includes FQHC and community clinic staff)

4. *I have learned from a coworker that it may be possible to set up a hotel stay for healthcare workers with COVID. Do you know if we can set up something like this through AltaMed?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

The program is the California Hotels for Health Care Workers program, which provides free or reduced rate hotels for front line healthcare workers based on availability in an area. To be eligible, you must work in a healthcare facility, have exposure to someone with documented COVID, and not have the ability to isolate at home. The program is run by CalTravelStore and inquiries can be made about availability of rooms/reservations at 877-454-8785. Note that you will need proof of identification upon check-in and you may be required to provide a credit card for incidental expenses.

5. *I walk regularly (always with my mask on) and runners often come toward me without masks. Is this safe? I wonder about the heaving breathing coming in such close proximity to where I am.*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Walking outside is pretty low risk. If you see someone coming towards you without a mask on, I would walk around them to try to give six foot distancing from them when they pass.

6. *"It has been communicated several times that AltaMed's policy is that all employees wear a mask at all times unless they are alone in an office with the door closed." What if someone is eating at their cubicle, would it be okay to have their mask removed? Thank you.*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

The Temporary Face Masking policy, HR-WEL-007, provides instructions that include that masks can be removed when eating or drinking. Please remember that masks should be replaced as soon as actual eating or drinking is done; you may not have the mask removed the entire hour or half hour that you may be on lunch break if not eating.