

NEW FAQs – January 13, 2021

1. *If we have a history of allergic reactions to some foods can we still receive the vaccine?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Please refer to recent FAQs. The only contraindication is a severe allergy to the vaccine components which are not food items, latex, or eggs.

2. *Is it recommended that an employee who got COVID-19 in the last three months gets the vaccine?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Please see the FAQs. We recommend that anyone that who had COVID still gets the vaccine. They just need to be out of their isolation or quarantine period.

3. *I received the email stating that I can get the Moderna vaccine. Can I wait until we receive the Pfizer vaccine at Corporate?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

We do not know when or if we will be getting the Pfizer vaccine. You may sign up for the Moderna vaccine with AltaMed or try to secure a spot at a county vaccine location that is offering the Pfizer vaccine, if you would like.

4. *Can a person receive the COVID vaccine if they are not well (cough and cold, etc. but not COVID) during vaccination time?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

It would be best to be well at the time of vaccine administration so you do not get others sick with your possibly contagious illness, even if it is not COVID.

5. *When I signed up for a COVID-19 vaccine I received this automated response: "Thank you for scheduling your COVID-19 vaccination appointment...bring the attached consent form signed. Thank you." I would do this, but there is no consent form attached. Where do I access this consent form?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

They will have consent forms available to you at the time of vaccine administration as well. The consent forms and all other forms related to the vaccine are also available at the top of the SignUpGenius page, under “attachments.”

- 6. If an employee is complaining of body aches, and the next day of headaches, are we safe? I'm worried this employee might not be reporting correct information.*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Anyone with concerning symptoms of a possible infection should contact Employee Health to see if they need to be kept from work. Post-vaccine symptoms include fever, body aches, sore arm, headache, and nausea, which are normal up to three days post-vaccine.

Symptoms to be concerned about would be those that do not go away after three days post-vaccine, are not related to vaccine timing at all, or are accompanied by SOB, cough, runny nose, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell.

- 7. I received the vaccine with LA Public Health. I have my vaccination card. Do I need to turn that in to someone on AltaMed's HR team?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Yes, please take a picture of it and email it to employeehealth@altamed.org. Please attempt to schedule your second dose with the county site; if you are unable to get your second dose with the county, please contact Sabrina Kosok to assist with scheduling at AltaMed.

- 8. How can we get reimbursed for time and travel to get the COVID vaccine? What if we get the vaccine from LA County after work hours? Can we still be reimbursed for this time? This was mentioned during the town hall and by email.*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

Exempt employees may get reimbursed for travel during working hours. Please contact your HRBP for more information. Non-exempt employees will get reimbursed for travel time and time to get vaccinated.

9. *With the rising COVID case load in our community, is there any policy for the Patient Service Center in terms of advising patients to postpone routine or non-urgent "annual" physicals? I know they can't make clinical decisions, but for the next month or so can they stop booking routine physicals? I've been getting physicals scheduled into same day exception slots, so I don't always catch them in time, and feel in general that I'm adding more work for my clinic staff by making them call to reschedule patients every day or change the visits to telehealth appointments, which is more appropriate given the current pandemic spike.*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

We will look at our scheduling algorithm. For now, continue to look ahead at the schedule and reschedule patients for visits later on or for telehealth where appropriate.

10. *Why is temperature now being self-administered at my site? We risk the chance that an employee presenting a fever may choose to lie about having a fever so they are not sent home (staff have said they do not want to use their PTO for this purpose), putting other staff and patients at risk for COVID-19.*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

We will discuss with your site's leadership. In settings where we have not had enough staffing to support temperature monitoring for staff, it has been recommended for staff to check their own temperature and attest that what they have said is true. Anyone violating that attestation and policy is at risk of disciplinary action.

11. *I am a non-patient-facing employee, and due to personal beliefs I am declining the vaccine at the moment. Do I automatically get reassigned or terminated, and if so will this be temporary or permanent?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team:

According to our policy, non-patient-facing staff are recommended to get the vaccine but are not required. Regardless of whether someone is patient-facing or not, vaccination is used to help protect patients and co-workers from being infected both at home and at work. Similar to influenza, which is also a required vaccine, everyone who declines the vaccination will be required to continue to practice infection prevention measures, including mask wearing during cough/cold season and during the pandemic period. If the risk of infecting others is high enough and Public Health mandates that only vaccinated individuals be working alongside others in person, we will have to abide by all recommendations and standards. At this point we have no specific plans for reassignment.