

New FAQs – February 17, 2021

1. *Should those who answer "yes" to the COVID administration questions (i.e., immunosuppressed, pregnant, etc.) be monitored only 15 minutes or a full 30 minutes?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: According to the CDC individuals that have had anaphylaxis to anything (not the COVID vaccine) you would need to be monitored for 30 minutes. If the pregnant or immunosuppressed individual does not meet that criteria, they only need to be monitored for 15 minutes. Individuals who feel any unusual symptoms are asked to stay longer to assess their symptoms.

2. *Why are our COVID vaccination cards AltaMed-branded and not CDC-branded (seemingly the majority of what I've seen online)? In the future, if we ever need to provide proof of vaccination, will this cause an issue?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: Both cards have the same information, and all vaccine records are additionally put into the national immunization registry (unless you opt out), which will be the ultimate documentation of COVID-19 vaccination. The AltaMed vaccine card can be used interchangeably with the CDC vaccine card. If one wishes to change out their card with a CDC card, your vaccinator can do that for you.

3. *Patients have received messages from AltaMed regarding the vaccine. We are receiving inquiries, from our patients, asking when the vaccine will be available to AltaMed patients who are under 65 years. What is the best response to their inquiries?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: You can direct them to AltaMed's COVID-19 vaccine hotline at (888) 909-5232, which is updated regularly, and our patient-facing website: <https://www.altamed.org/vaccine>. Communications will also be publishing fliers that can be handed out to patients with additional information.

4. *Is this a yearly vaccine that we now need to get, or is it a one-time?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: We do not yet know if there will be an annual COVID-19 vaccination or boosters. As more information is available, we will continue to update our staff members and patients.

5. *If we get tested for COVID, will they come out positive?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: Tests for active COVID infection, such as PCR tests and antigen tests, will not be impacted by the COVID vaccine. The COVID vaccine will not cause these tests to become positive.

6. *Is it normal to scar at the injection site?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: Depending on the severity of the reaction at the site of the vaccine it is possible to develop a scar but most people will not develop any long lasting signs at the site of vaccination.

7. *Does the second dose need to be at the exact 28 days? And if you miss your second dose and get it later, will you need to start again or will it still be as effective?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: The second dose is recommended to be given at 28 days for the Moderna vaccine, per the CDC, it is ok to get it up to four days early or up to two weeks late? Vaccine doses prior to 24 days or later than 42 days will not require repeat dosing of vaccine or starting over. The vaccine clinical trials were not conducted with timing intervals outside of these recommended ranges; therefore, we cannot comment at this time whether they will still be as effective.

8. *I declined to get my vaccine, but would now like to get it. Who do I contact to schedule an appointment?*

From the COVID-19 Response Team: As additional vaccines become available, we will send out new dates for AltaMed employees to get their first vaccine dose. Additionally, individuals who meet the counties' vaccine prioritization categories can make an appointment to be vaccinated in your local county or public health jurisdiction. (LA County, Long Beach, Orange County, Pasadena, etc.).