

QUESTIONS

(click to get to the answers)

COVID-19 vaccine allocation at Stanford Medicine

- 1) [Which COVID-19 vaccines will Stanford Medicine be receiving, and how many?](#)
- 2) [Is the COVID-19 vaccine required?](#)
- 3) [Who will get the vaccine?](#)
- 4) [When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available to the Stanford Medicine community?](#)
- 5) [Who fits into the vaccination prioritization categories?](#)
- 6) [I support the delivery system but am employed by the University, am I eligible?](#)
- 7) [What if I live in another state but work for Stanford?](#)
- 8) [Do we have extra vaccines on-hand? If so, can I get vaccinated?](#)
- 9) [Is Stanford Medicine vaccinating community healthcare providers?](#)
- 10) [Is Stanford Medicine vaccinating patients?](#)
- 11) [Who decides how the vaccine will be distributed?](#)

Signing-up for the vaccine

- 12) [How do I sign up to get the vaccine?](#)
- 13) [I've made my appointment, but need to reschedule. Can I do that in MyHealth?](#)
- 14) [If I cancel my appointment, will I still have an appointment invitation in MyHealth? Will I need to wait for a new appointment invitation?](#)
- 15) [Will I have a choice between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?](#)
- 16) [Will health care workers who receive the COVID-19 vaccine be given a sticker so patients/others know they've been vaccinated?](#)
- 17) [I received my COVID-19 vaccine elsewhere. Do I need to do update Stanford Medicine?](#)
- 18) [I received my first dose elsewhere. Can I receive my second dose at Stanford Medicine?](#)
- 19) [Will staff on leave of absence \(LOA\) get vaccinated?](#)

About the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine

- 20) [How many injections are required to complete the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)
- 21) [COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials from Pfizer and Moderna are showing up to 95% efficacy. What exactly are they "effective" at doing?](#)
- 22) [What should we know about mRNA vaccines since this is the first time they have been authorized for use in humans? How do mRNA vaccines work?](#)
- 23) [Are mRNA vaccines safe?](#)
- 24) [What is the optimal window for second doses for both vaccines?](#)

FAQs | COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation and Information

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY (Updated January 13, 2021)

- 25) With data showing the racial and ethnic disparities in the health impact of COVID-19, how do we know if the vaccine will be effective for all populations? Were the clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccine inclusive of the diversity of the population?

Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine and what to do if you experience side effects

- 26) What are the short-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?
27) What are the long-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?
28) If I'm feeling sick after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, how do I know if it's side effects or just illness? Should I stay home from work?
29) How do I report if I have a problem or bad reaction after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?
30) Will I be paid for sick days taken due to side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Safety precautions

- 31) Will the vaccine prevent me from getting infected?
32) If I get the COVID-19 vaccine, is it still possible for me to get COVID-19?
33) If I get COVID-19 and have had the COVID-19 vaccine, might I still be contagious to others?
34) What efforts are underway to ensure the safety and wellness of our workforce?
35) Will health care workers who get the COVID-19 vaccine still be required to wear a mask and full PPE?
36) If I receive the COVID-19 vaccine, do I still need to be tested?
37) What ongoing precautions should COVID-19 vaccine recipients take?

Who should get the COVID-19 vaccine and factors to consider

- 38) I have severe allergies (a medical history of anaphylactic reactions). Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for me?
39) I am immunosuppressed. Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?
40) Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnant or possibly pregnant women?
41) Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for breastfeeding/lactating women?
42) Should those who have already had (or believe they had) COVID-19 and recovered, or who had a positive COVID-19 antibody test, get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Summary information about the Pfizer vaccine EUA Fact Sheet

- 43) Why is Stanford Medicine sharing a summary of the Pfizer vaccine emergency use authorization (EUA) Fact Sheet?
44) What is the Pfizer vaccine EUA?
45) How many people have received the Pfizer vaccine?
46) Does the Pfizer vaccine contain COVID-19 virus?
47) Who should get the Pfizer vaccine?

- 48) [Who should not get the Pfizer vaccine?](#)
- 49) [What are the possible side effects of the Pfizer vaccine?](#)
- 50) [Where can I get additional information about the Pfizer vaccine?](#)

Summary information about the Moderna vaccine EUA Fact Sheet

- 51) [Why is Stanford Medicine sharing a summary of the Moderna vaccine emergency use authorization \(EUA\) Fact Sheet?](#)
- 52) [What is the Moderna vaccine EUA?](#)
- 53) [How many people have received the Moderna vaccine?](#)
- 54) [Does the Moderna vaccine contain COVID-19 virus?](#)
- 55) [Who should get the Moderna vaccine?](#)
- 56) [Who should not get the Moderna vaccine?](#)
- 57) [What are the possible side effects of the Moderna vaccine?](#)
- 58) [Where can I get additional information about the Moderna vaccine?](#)

COVID-19 vaccine allocation at Stanford Medicine

1) Which COVID-19 vaccines will Stanford Medicine be receiving, and how many?

Stanford Medicine received the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on December 17, 2020, with weekly shipments to follow. We will also be receiving shipments of the Moderna vaccine in coming weeks.

Please check the daily Vaccine Distribution Dashboard in the StanfordMed Pulse for the latest allocation information.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

2) Is the COVID-19 vaccine required?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required, but strongly encouraged for all Stanford Medicine health care workers.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

3) Who will get the vaccine?

- Stanford Health Care, Stanford Children's Health, Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare, University HealthCare Alliance (UHA), and Packard Children's Health Alliance (PCHA) staff, travelling nurses, contractors, volunteers
- Medical staff and medical group members
- Medical students, physician assistant students, trainees, residents, fellows
- School of Medicine employees with patient-facing responsibilities or COVID-19 research
- In partnership with other delivery systems: community providers

After the initial phases of vaccinations, we anticipate being able to provide vaccines to remote-only workers and volunteers.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Signing-up for the vaccine

4) When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available to the Stanford Medicine community?

Stanford Health Care Vaccine distribution will be as follows (excludes SHC –VC):

- Starting December 17, 2020: Offered to in-person/ patient-facing frontline providers and other health care workers in high-acuity settings
- Starting December 28, 2020: Offered vaccination to all other in-person/ patient-facing hospital and ambulatory providers and staff
- Starting January 8, 2021: Offered vaccination to patient-facing providers in remote settings and those employed or contracted by the health care delivery system
- Other members of the Stanford Medicine community will be vaccinated in additional waves corresponding to CDPH and County guidance. We will communicate more information on these groups and timing as it becomes available.

At every stage, we will monitor distribution and remain compliant with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

5) Who fits into the vaccination prioritization categories?

Please check the daily Vaccine Distribution Dashboard in the StanfordMed Pulse for the latest vaccination prioritization information.

COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization:

| | |
|--------|---|
| Wave 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-person/patient-facing frontline providers and other health care workers in high-acuity settings |
| Wave 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All other in-person/patient-facing hospital and ambulatory providers and staff |
| Wave 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient-facing providers in remote settings• Those employed or contracted by the health care delivery system |

As we receive further guidance from Santa Clara County officials on vaccinating other groups within our community, we will keep you fully informed.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

6) I support the delivery system but am employed by the University, am I now eligible?

No, not at this stage. Per our Wave 3 definition, which aligns with state and county guidelines, on January 8, we began extending invitations only to patient-facing providers in remote settings and those employed or contracted by the health care delivery system. As we receive further guidance from Santa Clara County officials on vaccinating other groups within our community, we will keep you fully informed.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

7) What if I live in another state but work for Stanford?

If you live in another state but work for Stanford Medicine, we recommend getting vaccinated in your region when it is available. If you think you are a healthcare worker or supporting the healthcare delivery system, please visit your local state or country website to find a vaccination clinic near you.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

8) Do we have extra vaccines on-hand? If so, can I get vaccinated?

Our vaccination process, including eligibility, is determined by Santa Clara County (SCC) guidelines and reviewed carefully by our Vaccine Governance Committee for compliance.

At this stage, we are only offering vaccines to those eligible in Waves 1, 2, and 3.

Beginning the week of January 11, we are also fulfilling a new request from the County to vaccinate community health care workers who practice in SCC and/or receive their care from Stanford Medicine. We are receiving a separate allocation of vaccine supplies to provide this community service.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

9) Is Stanford Medicine vaccinating community healthcare providers?

Beginning the week of January 11, we began fulfilling a new request from the county to vaccinate community health care workers who practice in SCC and/or receive their care

from Stanford Medicine. We are receiving a separate allocation of vaccine supplies to provide this community service.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

10) Is Stanford Medicine vaccinating patients?

Stanford Medicine is accountable to Santa Clara County (SCC), which **has not yet recommended expanding vaccination to additional groups** – [as defined by the State of California](#). While the situation is evolving daily, we stand ready to scale vaccinations to a broader population, including eligible patient groups, as soon as we receive the County's guidance to do so.

We want to underscore that guidelines governing vaccine distribution and allocations vary from county to county and state by state. That includes in the Bay Area, where health systems are working with their local county health officials to determine their individual processes.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

11) Who decides how the vaccine will be distributed?

Guidelines governing vaccine distribution and allocations vary from county to county and state by state. That includes in the Bay Area, where health systems are working with their local county health official to determine their individual processes.

Stanford Medicine is accountable to Santa Clara County (SCC).

Our Vaccine Governance Committee is closely coordinating with SCC on vaccine distribution and is carefully monitoring our process to ensure compliance. In the spirit of transparency, [here](#) you will find a full list of our Vaccine Governance Committee members, who have been working to represent the interests of all our community stakeholder groups. These members sit on several vaccine subcommittees focusing on operations, vaccine principles and population prioritization, communications, and liaising with the University.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

12) How do I sign up to get the vaccine?

FAQs | COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation and Information

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY (Updated January 13, 2021)

Scheduling for your vaccination will be done via MyHealth and a notification will be sent to you when it is time for you to schedule. Alternatively, you may also receive a direct invitation from your area or division leader. If you do not have a MyHealth account, a link to sign up will be sent via text message to your cell phone.

Scheduling vaccine in MyHealth:

1. You will receive a scheduling invitation through the email address that's associated with your MyHealth account.
2. If you have the MyHealth iPhone or Android application, you will also receive a push notification through the MyHealth app.
3. Log in to your MyHealth account, navigate to Appointment > Invitations.
4. You will see a scheduling invitation for the vaccine. Click on the Schedule Now button and follow the prompts to complete scheduling.

If you do not have a MyHealth account:

1. If Stanford Medicine has your cellphone number on file, you will receive a text message with a link to activate your MyHealth account.
2. The link to sign-up for MyHealth will be active for only 2 hours.
3. Click on the link, validate your date of birth, zip code and create a username and password to activate your MyHealth account.

For assistance, feel free to reach out to MyHealth Service Desk at (866) 367-0758.

For those who receive their vaccine outside of Stanford, please send scanned copy to covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

13) I've made my appointment, but need to reschedule. Can I do that in MyHealth?

To reschedule your vaccine appointment:

- 1) Login to your MyHealth account
- 2) Navigate to Appointments page
- 3) Select your vaccine appointment from your upcoming appointments list, and
- 4) Click on 'Reschedule Appointment' to pick a new available time.

Note: Since availability is limited at the moment, you will only see slots that are available at that time.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

14) If I cancel my appointment, will I still have an appointment invitation in MyHealth? Will I need to wait for a new appointment invitation?

To cancel your appointment, you can click on 'Cancel Appointment' and follow the prompts to cancel your appointment in MyHealth.

If you had originally scheduled your vaccine appointment from an invitation in MyHealth, upon cancelation, your invitation will appear again under the 'Invitations' page that you can use to schedule your vaccine. If you do not see the invitation after cancelling, please email covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

15) Will I have a choice between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?

Due to concerns regarding operational efficiency and vaccine management, we are unable to offer a choice of vaccine (Pfizer vs. Moderna) to employees. They have very similar safety and effectiveness profiles.

16) Will health care workers who receive the COVID-19 vaccine be given a sticker so patients/others know they've been vaccinated?

Yes.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

17) I received my COVID-19 vaccine elsewhere. Do I need to update Stanford Medicine?

For those who receive their vaccine outside of Stanford Medicine, please send a scanned copy of the vaccine record to covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

18) I received my COVID-19 vaccine elsewhere. Can I receive my second dose at Stanford Medicine?

We recommend for both doses to be received at the same vaccination site. Please alert covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org if you are unable to get your second dose at the same site and need assistance.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

19) Will staff on leave of absence (LOA) get vaccinated?

Staff on LOA will be offered a vaccine, even without completing the Vaccination Attestation on HealthStream. When LOA staff receive their MyHealth scheduling notification, they can decide at that time if they would like to schedule a vaccination appointment.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

About the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine

20) How many injections are required to complete the COVID-19 vaccine?

Those who choose to receive the vaccine should expect a total of two injections over a period of three to four weeks, depending on which vaccine they receive. Pfizer's vaccine is 2 shots given 3 weeks apart; we anticipate getting a majority of our supply from Pfizer. Moderna's vaccine is a series of 2 injections given 4 weeks apart. *To achieve the COVID-19 vaccine's full effectiveness, it is essential to obtain the full course of injections.*

[BACK TO TOP](#)

21) COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials from Pfizer and Moderna are showing up to 95% efficacy. What exactly are they "effective" at doing?

Vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are highly likely to prevent people from becoming ill due to COVID-19. However, additional research over the next several months is needed to show:

- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine, in addition to preventing illness, also prevents infection from the virus
- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent transmission of the virus by someone exposed after vaccination

For this reason, it is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, testing when indicated and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

22) What should we know about mRNA vaccines since this is the first time they have been authorized for use in humans? How do mRNA vaccines work?

The CDC has provided the following information about how mRNA vaccines work:

- mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.
- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece of what is called the “spike protein.” The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are given in the upper arm muscle. Once the instructions (mRNA) are inside the muscle cells, the cells use them to make the protein piece. After the protein piece is made, the cell breaks down the instructions and gets rid of them.
- Next, the cell displays the protein piece on its surface. Our immune systems recognize that the protein doesn’t belong there and begin building an immune response and making antibodies, like what happens in natural infection against COVID-19.
- At the end of the process, our bodies have learned how to protect against future infection. The benefit of mRNA vaccines, like all vaccines, is those vaccinated gain this protection without ever having to risk the serious consequences of getting sick with COVID-19.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

23) Are mRNA vaccines safe?

The CDC has provided the following information on the safety of mRNA vaccines:

- mRNA vaccines are being held to the same [rigorous safety and effectiveness standards](#) as all other types of vaccines in the United States. The only COVID-19 vaccines the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will make available for use in the United States (by approval or emergency use authorization) are those that meet these standards.
- There are currently no licensed mRNA vaccines in the United States. However, researchers have been studying and working with them for decades. Interest has

grown in these vaccines because they can be developed in a laboratory using readily available materials. This means the process can be standardized and scaled up, making vaccine development faster than traditional methods of making vaccines.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

24) What is the optimal window for second doses for both vaccines?

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is a 2-dose series separated by 21 days. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is a 2-dose series separated by 28 days.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

25) With data showing the racial and ethnic disparities in the health impact of COVID-19, how do we know if the vaccine will be effective for all populations? Were the clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccine inclusive of the diversity of the population?

Stanford Medicine is encouraged by the high level of racial and ethnic diversity represented in the Pfizer and Moderna clinical trials. These vaccines have demonstrated equivalent vaccine efficacy across all racial and ethnic backgrounds. This will continue to be tracked over the next two years.

Pfizer has [stated](#) that approximately 42% of its 44,392 participants in its global COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials have a diverse background. Moderna has [reported](#) that it recruited more than 11,000 people from communities of color — 37% of its cohort — as well as 7,000 people over the age of 65. The Moderna vaccine had 100% efficacy in those aged 65 and older, and 100% efficacy in communities of color.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine and what to do if you experience side effects

26) What are the short-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

As with any vaccine, people can react differently. It's important to know that even rare, severe side-effects will be temporary and should not dissuade vaccine recipients from completing their course of injections.

Many people who receive vaccines will have mild or no side effects. These may include:

- Low-grade fever
- Chills
- Soreness at the injection site
- Headache
- Slight fatigue

In rare cases, people may experience more serious side effects, which are defined as side effects that prevent daily activities. These uncommon, temporary but severe side effects may include:

- Immediate allergic reaction
- High fever
- Muscle pain
- Joint pain
- Nausea

Anyone who reacts to a vaccine should have either an allergy consult or referral to consider skin testing prior to a second dose.

These vaccines contain no active or killed virus particles. There is no chance the vaccine will cause COVID-19.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

27) What are the long-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Historically, the vast majority of complications in vaccines appear within 60 days of injection. In addition to the FDA, independent safety review scientific panels are working to confirm the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines. Because all COVID-19 vaccine research and clinical trials have been expedited over the last several months, there has not been an opportunity to gather extensive long-term research, including side effects. So far, most side effects have been mild and temporary.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

28) If I'm feeling sick after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, how do I know if it's side effects or just illness? Should I stay home from work?

Individuals who receive the COVID-19 vaccine should look for side effects 24-48 hours after injection. Most side effects are mild and temporary, but in rare cases, they may be severe. Vaccine recipients should stay home from work if their symptoms would make it difficult or impossible to do their job. **No one with a fever should come to work.**

At all Stanford Medicine locations, health care personnel receiving the vaccine should report side effects to the Healthcare Workforce Response Team (HRT).

- Stanford Health Care/UHA, Stanford Children's Health/PCHA: (650) 497-9595
- Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare: (925) 534-0245

[BACK TO TOP](#)

29) How do I report if I have a problem or bad reaction after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

At all Stanford Medicine locations, health care personnel receiving the vaccine should **report side effects to the Healthcare Workforce Response Team (HRT)**. Anyone who reacts to a vaccine should have either an allergy consult or referral to consider skin testing prior to a second dose.

Our goal is to provide support through the series of injections to increase the likelihood that all who receive a first dose will complete the course through the final dose to achieve the highest possible efficacy of the vaccine. Vaccine recipients should know that, while possible side effects may be temporarily uncomfortable, the benefit of receiving the vaccine far outweighs any of the risks. As always, if you feel you need to seek care, contact your primary care physician.

If you have questions about Stanford Medicine's COVID-19 vaccine program, please contact:

- Stanford Health Care/UHA, Stanford Children's Health/PCHA: (650) 497-9595
- Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare: (925) 534-0245

[BACK TO TOP](#)

30) Will I be paid for sick days taken due to side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Employees may use their Extended Sick Leave (ESL), Paid Time Off (PTO) or California Supplemental Pay (CA SLP) to receive pay for time off due to side-effect related or other illness. Employees were granted 80 hours of CA SLP for use beginning March 2020. CA SLP has been extended at Stanford Health Care, Stanford Children's Health, and Stanford

Health Care – Valley Care. Please contact your manager for guidelines on CA SLP at your organization.

At all Stanford Medicine locations, health care personnel receiving the vaccine should report side effects to the Healthcare Workforce Response Team.

- Stanford Health Care/UHA, Stanford Children’s Health/PCHA: (650) 497-9595
- Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare: (925) 534-0245

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Safety precautions

31) Will the vaccine prevent me from getting infected?

The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are highly likely to prevent people from becoming ill due to COVID-19. However, additional research over the next several months is needed to show:

- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine, in addition to preventing illness, also prevents infection from the virus, and/or
- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent transmission of the virus by someone exposed after vaccination

For this reason, it is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, testing when indicated, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

32) If I get the COVID-19 vaccine, is it still possible for me to get COVID-19?

Yes. Vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are highly likely to prevent people from becoming ill due to COVID-19. However, additional research over the next several months is needed to show:

- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine, in addition to preventing illness, also prevents infection from the virus
- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent transmission of the virus by someone exposed after vaccination

For this reason, it is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, testing when indicated, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

33) **If I get COVID-19 and have had the COVID-19 vaccine, might I still be contagious to others?**

Yes. Vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are highly likely to prevent people from becoming ill due to COVID-19. However, additional research over the next several months is needed to show:

- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine, in addition to preventing illness, also prevents infection from the virus
- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent transmission of the virus by someone exposed after vaccination

For this reason, it is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, testing when indicated, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

34) **What efforts are underway to ensure the safety and wellness of our workforce?**

We are committed to the safety of our health care workers and have been from the beginning of the pandemic. We believe the most important way to keep our health care workers safe is through vaccination and staying committed to:

- Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and eye protection, especially during aerosol-generating procedures
- Maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others, particularly in small spaces such as breakrooms
- Practice universal masking; remember that reminding patients and visitors to wear masks at all times is a way of caring for and protecting them
- Practice hand hygiene
- Get tested - "Anyone who wants a test can get one" is our expectation

- Monitor your symptoms closely and report new respiratory or other symptoms—even if you think there is a non-COVID explanation for the symptoms—to Occupational Health Services or the Healthcare Workforce Response Team.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

35) Will health care workers who get the COVID-19 vaccine still be required to wear a mask and full PPE?

Yes. Vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are highly likely to prevent people from becoming ill due to COVID-19. However, additional research over the next several months is needed to show:

- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine, in addition to preventing illness, also prevents infection from the virus
- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent transmission of the virus by someone exposed after vaccination

For this reason, it is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, testing when indicated, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

36) If I receive the COVID-19 vaccine, do I still need to be tested?

Yes. Vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are highly likely to prevent people from becoming ill due to COVID-19. However, additional research over the next several months is needed to show:

- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine, in addition to preventing illness, also prevents infection from the virus
- Whether the COVID-19 vaccine can prevent transmission of the virus by someone exposed after vaccination

You will still need to be tested under the following circumstances:

- If you were not wearing PPE as required by Stanford Medicine protocol when exposed to COVID-19
- If you were exposed to COVID-19 outside of work
- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms

- If you are concerned that you may have COVID-19

[BACK TO TOP](#)

37) What ongoing precautions should COVID-19 vaccine recipients take?

It is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Who should get the COVID-19 vaccine and factors to consider

38) I have severe allergies (a medical history of anaphylactic reactions). Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for me?

Because of reports of anaphylactic reactions in persons who received the COVID-19 vaccine outside of clinical trials, the CDC has proposed the following guidance:

- Persons who have had a severe allergic reaction to any vaccine or injectable therapy (intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous) **should not receive the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at this time.**
- Persons who have had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient in a COVID-19 vaccine **should not get that specific vaccine.**
- Vaccine providers should observe patients after vaccination to monitor for the occurrence of immediate adverse reactions:
 - Persons with a history of anaphylaxis: 30 minutes
 - All other persons: 15 minutes
- This recommendation does not apply to persons with other severe allergic reactions (for example: food allergies).

Stanford Medicine recommends that persons with a history of anaphylaxis or severe allergic reactions discuss COVID-19 vaccination with their primary care physician. The [CDC Interim Considerations](#) detail more granular considerations.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

39) I am immunosuppressed. Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The CDC has provided the following guidance:

- Persons with HIV infection, other immunocompromising conditions, or who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies might be at increased risk for severe COVID-19
- Data is not currently available to establish safety and efficacy of vaccine in these groups, but they may still receive COVID-19 vaccine unless otherwise contraindicated

Stanford Medicine recommends that persons with immunocompromising conditions discuss COVID-19 vaccination with their primary care physician.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

40) Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnant or possibly pregnant women?

The CDC has provided the following guidance for pregnant women:

- There are no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women.
- If a woman is part of a group (e.g., healthcare personnel) who is recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and is pregnant, she may choose to be vaccinated. A discussion with her healthcare provider can help her make an informed decision.
- Considerations for vaccination:
 - Level of COVID-19 community transmission (risk of acquisition)
 - Her personal risk of contracting COVID-19 (by occupation or other activities)
 - The risks of COVID-19 to her and potential risks to the fetus
 - The efficacy of the vaccine
 - The known side effects of the vaccine
 - The lack of data about the vaccine during pregnancy
- Pregnant women who experience fever following vaccination should be counseled to take acetaminophen as fever has been associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes.
- Routine testing for pregnancy prior to receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine is not recommended.

Stanford Medicine recommends that persons who are pregnant or lactating discuss COVID-19 vaccination with their primary care physician if they are uncertain regarding vaccination.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

41) Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for breastfeeding/lactating women?

The CDC has provided the following guidance for breastfeeding/lactating women:

- There are no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in lactating women or the effects of mRNA vaccines on the breastfed infant or milk production/excretion.
- mRNA vaccines are not considered live virus vaccines and are not thought to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant.
- If a lactating woman is part of a group (e.g., healthcare personnel) who is recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, she may choose to be vaccinated.

Stanford Medicine recommends that persons who are pregnant or lactating discuss COVID-19 vaccination with their primary care physician if they are uncertain regarding vaccination.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

42) Should those who have already had (or believe they had) COVID-19 and recovered, or who had a positive COVID-19 antibody test, get the COVID-19 vaccine?

We encourage those who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 to wait until 90 days after their first positive test to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again; this is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes recommendations to CDC on how to best use COVID-19 vaccines; at this time CDC cannot advise on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine. (Source: CDC)

Stanford Medicine recommends that persons who have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days discuss COVID-19 vaccination with their primary care physician if they are uncertain regarding vaccination.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Summary information about the Pfizer vaccine EUA Fact Sheet

43) Why is Stanford Medicine sharing a summary of the Pfizer vaccine emergency use authorization (EUA) fact sheet?

By now, you have received a link to a HealthStream employee education module where you can learn about and provide your plan for COVID-19 vaccination – whether to take it, defer until later, or decline. As part of your agreement to receive the Pfizer vaccine, you must read the **Fact Sheet** about the Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA, which the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, or FDA, has issued for the vaccine. The Fact Sheet is included in the HealthStream module. The Fact Sheet reviews basics about the virus, the Pfizer vaccine, medical conditions that you should mention prior to getting the vaccine, how it will be given (two injections in your arm, three weeks apart), and common side effects.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

44) What is the Pfizer vaccine EUA?

The FDA has made the Pfizer vaccine available under an Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA. The FDA may issue an EUA when there are no adequate, approved, available alternatives. The FDA's decision to issue the EUA was based on all the scientific evidence available showing that the Pfizer vaccine may be effective to prevent you from contracting COVID-19 during the pandemic and that the known benefits of the vaccine outweigh the known and potential risks. The EUA does require a demonstration of safety but does not require the same level of clinical data need for a full FDA approval. Much of this data, like long-term follow up of vaccinated patients, could not be obtained in the time frame in which the EUA was issued.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

45) How many people have received the Pfizer vaccine?

Approximately 20,000 people have received at least one dose of the vaccine in clinical trials that were done to support the EUA. These people will continue to be followed to evaluate the safety of the vaccine and the length of immunity it may provide. Vaccination of healthcare workers and vulnerable populations under the EUA began this week across the country.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

46) Does the Pfizer vaccine contain COVID-19 virus?

No, the vaccine does not contain the virus that causes COVID-19 and cannot give you COVID-19.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

47) Who should get the Pfizer vaccine?

The EUA allows the Pfizer vaccine to be given to persons at least 16 years old.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

48) Who should not get the Pfizer vaccine?

You should not get the Pfizer Vaccine if you have a severe allergic reaction to your first dose or you have had a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine's ingredients. The [Fact Sheet](#) contains a list of these ingredients.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

49) What are the possible side effects of the Pfizer vaccine?

These are explained in the Pfizer vaccine [Fact Sheet](#). Many are similar to other viral vaccines, like the flu vaccine, including pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, and muscle pain. More detail is provided in the Fact Sheet.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

50) Where can I get additional information about the Pfizer vaccine?

You should review the Pfizer vaccine [Fact Sheet](#). This is only a summary. You can also ask your primary care provider, SHC/SCH Occupational Health (phone: (650) 723-5922) or your supervisor. For Valley Care Occupational Health, please call (925) 479-3700.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Summary information about the Moderna vaccine EUA Fact Sheet

51) Why is Stanford Medicine sharing a summary of the Moderna vaccine emergency use authorization (EUA) fact sheet?

By now, you have received a link to a HealthStream employee education module where you can learn about and provide your plan for COVID-19 vaccination – whether to take it, defer until later, or decline. As part of your agreement to receive the Moderna vaccine, you must read the [Fact Sheet](#) about the Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA, which the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, or FDA, has issued for the vaccine. The Fact Sheet is included in the HealthStream module. The Fact Sheet reviews basics about the virus, the Moderna vaccine, medical conditions that you should mention prior to getting the vaccine,

how it will be given (two injections in your arm, one month apart), and common side effects.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

52) What is the Moderna vaccine EUA?

The FDA has made the Moderna vaccine available under an Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA. The FDA may issue an EUA when there are no adequate, approved, available alternatives. The FDA's decision to issue the EUA was based on all the scientific evidence available showing that the Moderna vaccine may be effective to prevent you from contracting COVID-19 during the pandemic and that the known benefits of the vaccine outweigh the known and potential risks. The EUA does require a demonstration of safety but does not require the same level of clinical data need for a full FDA approval. Much of this data, like long-term follow up of vaccinated patients, could not be obtained in the time frame in which the EUA was issued.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

53) How many people have received the Moderna vaccine?

Approximately 15,000 people have received at least one dose of the vaccine in clinical trials that were done to support the EUA. These people will continue to be followed to evaluate the safety of the vaccine and the length of immunity it may provide. Vaccination of healthcare workers and vulnerable populations under the EUA began recently across the country.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

54) Does the Moderna vaccine contain COVID-19 virus?

No, the vaccine does not contain the virus that causes COVID-19 and cannot give you COVID-19.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

55) Who should get the Moderna vaccine?

The EUA allows the Pfizer vaccine to be given to persons at least 18 years old.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

56) Who should not get the Moderna vaccine?

You should not get the Moderna Vaccine if you have a severe allergic reaction to your first dose or you have had a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine's ingredients. The [Fact Sheet](#) contains a list of these ingredients.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

57) What are the possible side effects of the Moderna vaccine?

These are explained in the Moderna vaccine [Fact Sheet](#). Many are similar to other viral vaccines, like the flu vaccine, including pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, and muscle pain. More detail is provided in the Fact Sheet.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

58) Where can I get additional information about the Moderna vaccine?

You should review the Moderna vaccine [Fact Sheet](#). This is only a summary. You can also ask your primary care provider, SHC/SCH Occupational Health (phone: (650) 723-5922) or your supervisor. For Valley Care Occupational Health, please call (925) 479-3700.

[BACK TO TOP](#)