

# FAQs | COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation and Information

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY (Updated March 17, 2021)

## QUESTIONS

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- 3) Who will get the vaccine?
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## COVID-19 vaccine allocation at Stanford Medicine

### 1) Which COVID-19 vaccine does Stanford Medicine have, and how many?

Stanford Medicine has received both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

Please check the daily Vaccine Distribution Dashboard on our [website](#) for the latest allocation information.

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### 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.

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### 3) Who will get the vaccine?

We are now able to schedule vaccination appointments through MyHealth for:

- Health care workers
- Patients who are aged 65 or older
- Individuals who are aged 18-64 with [severe health conditions](#)
- Individuals who work or reside in high-risk congregate settings
- Persons experiencing homelessness who may move to congregate settings at short notice
- Emergency services workers
- Food or agriculture workers
- Education or childcare workers (includes staff and any other workers involved in child and/or student care)
- Public transit, airports, and commercial airlines workers

At Stanford Health Care, we are required to follow guidelines from the state to determine vaccine priority. We are in daily contact with the state and county to request an increase in our vaccine supply, and we expect the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will approve additional vaccines from other drug companies for emergency use soon.

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We are optimistic that the supply of vaccines will improve in the coming months. When we receive more vaccine, we will quickly offer the opportunity for more of our community to get vaccinated.

With the continued dynamic environment in our vaccine planning, we encourage you to visit our [Vaccine Resource website](#) for the latest updates on eligibility.

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## Signing-up for the vaccine

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

Eligible members of the Stanford Medicine community can schedule vaccination appointments through MyHealth.

With the continued dynamic environment in our vaccine planning, we encourage you to visit our [Vaccine Resource website](#) for the latest updates on eligibility.

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### 5) **I support the delivery system but am employed by the University, am I now eligible?**

Eligibility criteria is determined by state guidance. Santa Clara County will expand COVID-19 vaccination access starting Feb. 28 to workers in education and childcare, emergency services, and the food and agriculture industries ([learn more](#)).

With the continued dynamic environment in our vaccine planning, we encourage you to visit our [Vaccine Resource website](#) for the latest updates on eligibility.

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### 6) **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 health care worker or supporting the health care delivery system, please visit your local state or county website to find a vaccination clinic near you.

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

We do not have extra vaccines on-hand for individuals outside the eligible groups.

We encourage you to visit our [Vaccine Resource website](#) for the latest updates on eligibility.

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## 8) Who decides how the vaccine will be distributed?

Unlike large health systems that receive their vaccine directly from the state, we get our supply from the counties and are held accountable to their guidelines. The variation in vaccination guidelines from state to state, and county to county, generates understandable confusion for many, and presents challenges to clear communication.

It is important to emphasize that our vaccination process is dependent on our available vaccine supply. We do not receive vaccine directly from the state.

We continue to work with each of the counties in which we operate to serve our patient communities. There is already concern in the region about limited vaccine supply to the meet the acceleration of guidelines.

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## 9) I'm a Stanford Health Care/Stanford Children's Health employee. Why do I need to provide my insurance information when I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Similar to when staff get flu vaccinations at a clinic versus at SHC/SCH Occupational Health, fees associated with the vaccine are billed to your insurance and you self-report your vaccine information to your employer. You will have no out-of-pocket costs associated with the COVID-19 vaccine.

**SHC – ValleyCare Employees:**

COVID-19 vaccination will be offered for SHC – VC existing and new hire employees only through SHC – VC Occupational Health Services (SHC – VC OHS). These employees will not be required to provide insurance information at SHC – VC OHS.

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## 10) How do I obtain my vaccination record/ proof of vaccination?

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If you received your COVID-19 vaccination at the 300P employee vaccination clinic, please contact OCC health or call medical records to obtain formal documentation of your vaccination.

If you received your COIVD-19 vaccination at one of Stanford's community vaccination sites, you can access documentation of your vaccination in your After Visit Summary (AVS), or, in MyHealth under "Health Summary" -> "Immunizations". You can also call medical records to obtain formal documentation of your vaccine.

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## Expanding coverage to eligible patient groups

### 11) Who is eligible to get vaccinated now?

Vaccine availability depends on your county of residence, age, and in some cases your occupation. At this time, individuals who meet the following criteria may schedule a vaccination via [MyHealth](#) or by calling [650-498-9000](#).

We are now able to schedule vaccination appointments through MyHealth for:

- Health care workers
- Patients who are aged 65 or older
- Individuals who are aged 18-64 with [severe health conditions](#)
- Individuals who work or reside in high-risk congregate settings
- Persons experiencing homelessness who may move to congregate settings at short notice
- Emergency services workers
- Food or agriculture workers
- Education or childcare workers (includes staff and any other workers involved in child and/or student care)
- Public transit, airports, and commercial airlines workers

Due to frequent updates and expanding eligible populations, we strongly encourage you to return to [this website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

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Many Stanford Health Care patients may have access to vaccine through resources beyond those offered by Stanford Health Care. We encourage you to get vaccinated where convenient and in the most safe and timely manner possible. We will continue to update you as more vaccines are received and made available for distribution.

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## **12) What are the plans for expanded vaccination?**

Stanford Medicine is ready to scale vaccinations to a broader population and has a dedicated plan in place to support this effort. Our Vaccine Governance Committee has been working to prepare to distribute additional supplies to additional groups.

Stanford Health Care will be opening additional vaccination sites across our region to ensure all eligible patients have equitable access to vaccines. The exact timing depends on when we receive additional vaccine supply from other county public health departments.

Though things keep changing, we are making strong progress forward. We've launched vaccination sites at seven locations around the Bay Area and have created capacity to vaccinate more than 10,000 individuals per day once our vaccine supply allows. We also continue to partner with our county health departments to serve the most vulnerable populations through community-based solutions. We established a community workgroup that is matching needs with services wherever we can contribute. We truly appreciate all the volunteerism within our Stanford Medicine community.

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## **13) I meet the new eligibility requirements to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Do I need to present documentation from my doctor or my employer at my appointment?**

No, you do not need to bring documentation from your employer in order to receive the vaccine at Stanford Health Care. However, you will be required to complete a form to attest that you meet the current [eligibility criteria](#).

If proof of eligibility is required for a vaccination outside of Stanford Medicine, please use your MyHealth medical record or appropriate job identification. We are currently unable to provide letters for non-Stanford vaccination sites.

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## 14) If I am eligible, how do I sign up to get the vaccine?

- The administration of vaccines for Stanford Medicine health care workers has transitioned from the vaccine clinic in the 300P Atrium to Occupational Health Services (OHS) in 300P. We encourage you to get your COVID-19 vaccine if you haven't already done so, by contacting [covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org](mailto:covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org) to schedule an appointment. Appointment availability will depend on current vaccine supply.
- If you are in the eligible population, you can also self-schedule appointments via MyHealth at any of the Stanford patient-facing vaccination clinics listed on our [Vaccine Resource website](#), including our newest sites in East San Jose, Redwood City, Pleasanton and Emeryville.

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

For SHC, SCH, SHC – VC and UHA employees who receive their vaccine outside of Stanford, please send scanned copy to [covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org](mailto:covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org).

For SoM employees who receive their vaccine outside of Stanford, the University is not currently collecting vaccination status.

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## 15) 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.

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

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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](mailto:covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org).

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## **17) 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.

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

Yes.

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

For SHC, SCH, SHC – VC and UHA employees who receive their vaccine outside of Stanford Medicine, please send a scanned copy of the vaccine record to [covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org](mailto:covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org).

For SoM employees who receive their vaccine outside of Stanford Medicine, the University is not currently collecting vaccination status.

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

Employees can now self-schedule their second dose appointments via MyHealth, even if they received their first dose elsewhere. Please contact [covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org](mailto:covidvax@stanfordhealthcare.org) if you need assistance.

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## **21) Will staff on leave of absence (LOA) get vaccinated?**

Staff on LOA will be offered a vaccine and can schedule through MyHealth.

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## **22) Will I be paid for my time and/or be reimbursed for mileage or other expenses to get the vaccine?**

Currently, the vaccine is voluntary. Employees who want to receive the vaccine will not be paid for their time or reimbursed for mileage or other expenses.

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## **About the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine**

### **23) 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. Two doses must be given to achieve full efficacy. If a second dose is delayed for any reason, it should still be received as close as possible to the recommended date regardless of how late. Third doses are not recommended.

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### **24) Is one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine effective at protecting against the virus?**

There is some evidence that one dose of the vaccine can provide some protection against COVID-19 and is therefore better than not getting vaccinated at all. However, two doses of vaccine, given at the proper intervals, is still the U.S. recommendation.

Please remember that vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. 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.

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## 25) Will a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine increase my immunity and/or help protect against variants of the virus?

There is no evidence recommending a third dose of the vaccine for any reason.

Please remember that vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. 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.

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## 26) Is the vaccine effective at protecting me from the new COVID-19 variants?

There is evidence that the two vaccines currently in use in the U.S. (Pfizer and Moderna) are likely to be effective against the major COVID-19 variants.

Please remember that vaccines are just one of several tools to help end the pandemic. 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.

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## 27) 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

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from others, testing when indicated and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

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## **28) 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.

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## **29) 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

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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.

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## 30) **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.

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## 31) **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.

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

### 32) **What are the short-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

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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.

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## 33) **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.

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## 34) 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.** All employees are encouraged to register and record side effects with [v-safe \(cdc.gov\)](https://v-safe.cdc.gov).

If it has been less than 72 hours from your vaccine administration and you have any of the symptoms listed below, please continue to monitor.

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Body aches
- Fever (up to 103F)
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If, however, any of the symptoms above continue >72hours, please call HRT Immediately at 650-497-9595.

If you have any of the following symptoms at any time post administration, call HRT or SHC-VC Occ Health for a COVID test:

- Runny nose/nasal congestion
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Loss of smell or taste

Seek medical attention at the nearest Emergency Department or Urgent Care **IMMEDIATELY** if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Fever 104F or greater
- Excessive vomiting greater than 4 hours
- Rash or Hives
- Swelling in the face, lips, tongue and/or throat

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At all Stanford Medicine locations, health care personnel receiving the vaccine should report concerning 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

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

Health care personnel receiving the vaccine at any Stanford Medicine location should **report concerning 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. All employees are encouraged to register and record side effects with [v-safe \(cdc.gov\)](#).

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

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

Employees at Stanford Health Care, Stanford Children's Health and Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare 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.

Stanford University employees may use their accrued sick leave hours.

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## Safety precautions

### **37) 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.

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### **38) 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

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from others, testing when indicated, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

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## **39) 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.

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## **40) 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; the University has a mandatory weekly testing requirement in place for anyone working on-site

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- For people working on-site at a Stanford location, daily health checks are required to self-report health status before entering a building
- 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.

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## **41) 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.

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## **42) 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

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- 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

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## 43) 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.

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## 44) What about the new guidelines from the CDC? Does that change anything at work?

The recent [CDC guidelines](#) that provide guidance for the community on behaviors deemed safe post-vaccination were developed for the general public and not health care settings. We remain accountable to our county health departments, and much like our visitation policy above, our teams review every opportunity to relax restrictions when safe.

**Please continue to role model safe behaviors.** Vaccination, universal masking, social distancing, health monitoring and hand washing are all things staff can do to keep each other and our patients safe. Please remember social distancing protocols and masking guidelines while accessing all breakrooms and work areas. All staff must wear a mask, unless eating or drinking, and maintain six feet distance between themselves and others at all times.

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

### 45) 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:

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- 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.

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## 46) 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.

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## 47) 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.

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- 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.

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## 48) **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.

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## 49) **I was diagnosed with COVID-19. When should I schedule my first vaccine dose?**

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

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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.

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**50) I was diagnosed with COVID-19 after I received the first vaccine dose, but before I received the second dose. When should I schedule the second dose?**

Individuals who develop COVID-19 after the first dose may receive their vaccine after their symptoms resolve and they have met criteria to discontinue isolation per **CDC guidelines** or they may choose to defer their second dose up to six weeks (42 days) after their first dose.

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## Summary information about the Pfizer vaccine EUA Fact Sheet

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

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 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.

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**52) What is the Pfizer vaccine EUA?**

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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.

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## 53) **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.

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## 54) **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.

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## 55) **Who should get the Pfizer vaccine?**

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

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## 56) **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.

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## 57) **What are the possible side effects of the Pfizer vaccine?**

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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.

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## 58) **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.

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## Summary information about the Moderna vaccine EUA Fact Sheet

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

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 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.

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### 60) **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.

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## 61) **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.

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## 62) **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.

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## 63) **Who should get the Moderna vaccine?**

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

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## 64) **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.

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## 65) **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.

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## 66) **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.

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