

From: Wendy Bringas <WendyB@baptisthealth.net> on behalf of Bo Boulenger <BoB@baptisthealth.net>

Reply-To: Wendy Bringas <WendyB@baptisthealth.net>

Date: Monday, December 7, 2020 at 4:49 PM

To: DG-BHSF Everyone <DG-BHSFEveryone@baptisthealth.net>, DG-BT Everyone Automated <DG-BTEveryoneAutomated@baptisthealth.net>, BRRH Everyone <BRRHEveryone@brrh.com>, BRRH-BocaCare All <BocaCareAll@brrh.com>

Subject: An Important Message about the COVID-19 Vaccine

Dear Baptist Health Family,

As we see the rising number of COVID-19 cases across the country and in South Florida, we continue to do everything we can to keep our staff, patients and families safe. That includes preparing for the administration of a new COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to us.

The news that the vaccine will be made available within the coming weeks is encouraging, and we expect that Baptist Health will receive the vaccine for our staff soon. This process is being managed by the Florida Department of Health and we are working closely with them to make sure that we are prepared to receive and distribute the vaccine on a voluntary basis once it is approved.

We anticipate that the vaccine will begin to be available for Baptist Health employees in late December or early January. We will deploy the vaccine according to the FDA's Emergency Use authorization as interpreted by the state of Florida. It will be administered in phases by pre-determined groups **on a voluntary basis**. Priority will be given to high-risk groups as defined by [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC). Healthcare personnel who work directly with COVID-19 patients or in areas conducting COVID-19 testing will be included among the first group to be eligible for the vaccine on a voluntary basis.

In order to measure our staff's interest in receiving the vaccine once it becomes available, we are conducting a voluntary employee survey. Your participation is important, as these survey results will help our distribution planning efforts across the health system. Please note, survey responses are not individually tracked and do not represent a decision to take or not to take the vaccine.

[CLICK HERE](#) to take the employee vaccine survey.

To ensure you have as much information as possible before responding to the survey, we are attaching a list of [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQs) about the COVID-19 vaccine. Please review these FAQs prior to completing the survey.

In the coming weeks and months, we will likely continue to be challenged by COVID-19, however our hope is that our ongoing safety measures combined with the potential of the new vaccine will move things in the right direction. Together, we have faced a year like no other.

Your amazing teamwork and admirable resilience have been instrumental in helping our community, and will enable us to continue fighting this pandemic.

Thank you all for your commitment to health and safety and for everything you do every day.

Bo Boulenger
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