

UPDATED DETAILS AS OF JANUARY 5



## Say Yes to the Covid-19 Vaccine

### COVID-19 Vaccination Update

To date, we have vaccinated approximately 8,200 eligible frontline employees and healthcare personnel, including members of our medical staff. We continue to focus on offering the vaccine to our employees and caregivers, including medical staff, who wish to receive it, prioritizing those with the most risk for exposure to COVID-19.

Simultaneously, we are beginning to offer the vaccine to eligible high-risk members of the Baptist Health community. This includes all employees who are 65 years of age or older, or who have any vulnerabilities which put them at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19, based on the [CDC's criteria](#). This also includes one person who meets the criteria to receive the vaccine (65 or older, or with CDC risk factors) and lives in the same household as an employee or medical staff member. We understand that our frontline healthcare personnel put members of their household at risk in order to care for our patients, and we hope to ease this burden by facilitating vaccines for these high-risk individuals. See below for additional details.

We are also making plans to offer the vaccine to our high-risk patients who meet criteria, as well as to the community at large in the coming days. We will begin with patients who are most vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19, such as our cancer patients at Miami Cancer Institute and Lynn Cancer Institute.

This week, we will expand our vaccination program, adding a vaccination site at Homestead Hospital, in addition to our current sites at the Hilton Miami Dadeland and at Bethesda Hospital East and Boca Raton Regional Hospital. We are extremely pleased with our team's response to the vaccines and continue to strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to take the vaccine.

As the information about COVID-19 vaccine distribution is evolving rapidly, we continue to set priorities and strategies aligned with our mission in healthcare and consistent with the Governor's recent executive order, which prioritizes the following risk groups:

- Health care personnel with direct patient contact
- All persons 65 years of age and older
- Patients deemed to be extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 ([click here for details](#))

### Who is Eligible?

- Baptist Health employees and medical personnel, including medical staff members in groups 1A, 1B and 1C. [Click here](#) for prioritization details.
- Any Baptist Health employees, clinical or non-clinical who are age 65 years or older, or who have other extreme vulnerabilities for COVID-19, based on the [CDC's criteria](#).

- One person who meets the criteria to receive the vaccine (65 or older, or with CDC risk factors) and lives in the same household as an employee or medical staff member.
- Other medical office personnel or Baptist Health credentialed medical staff members. This includes any patient-facing or otherwise eligible caregivers and staff. Medical Staff members should work through each entity's medical staff office to facilitate this.
- Community physicians who do not have access to the vaccine, as well as their office staff. In accordance with the Governor's mandate, our Physician Business Development teams will be reaching out to physicians' offices to coordinate this.

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility during this rapidly evolving situation.

### **Vaccination Process**

The vaccine is being administered by appointment only. Vaccination of personnel in the same unit/area is being staggered throughout Phase 1.

If you are interested in receiving the vaccine and meet the eligibility criteria noted above, for yourself or an eligible individual who lives in your household, please notify your leader. Leaders will compile a list of eligible individuals interested in receiving the vaccine. Leaders will work with their vaccine Entity Champions who will submit these lists to Occupational Health. Occupational Health will schedule appointments based on the information specified by leadership and will notify each employee by email of their appointment date, time and location.

Once scheduled for your appointment, please make every effort to keep this appointment as the vaccine distribution is carefully planned. It is extremely important to arrive at your designated time on the day of your appointment, as the vaccine needs to be used within a certain window. If you are not able to attend your designated vaccine appointment, please cancel and reschedule your appointment from the email confirmation you received.

You are required to wear a mask for the appointment and **bring your Baptist Health ID, a Florida driver's license or ID, and your current Virgin Pulse clearance** (Virgin Pulse Clearance applies for employees only).

The anticipated duration of the vaccination visit is 45 minutes.

Both the Pfizer vaccine and the Moderna vaccine require two doses of the vaccine. The doses of the Pfizer vaccine must be administered 21 days apart, and the Moderna vaccine is administered 28 days apart. During your first appointment, you will schedule your next appointment to receive your second dose.

### **Locations**

In Miami-Dade County, vaccinations are taking place at the Hilton Miami Dadeland Hotel on the campus of Baptist Hospital. A site at Homestead Hospital will open on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

In Palm Beach County, vaccinations are taking place at Bethesda Hospital East and at Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

Employees and members of the medical staff who are eligible to receive the vaccine based on their phase/priority group can receive vaccine at any location, regardless of their work location.

### **Prioritization**

Please [click here](#) for Baptist Health's prioritization guidelines.

### **Side Effects & Other Considerations**

Side effects from the vaccine may include fatigue, fever, body aches, and gastrointestinal discomfort. These symptoms are not guaranteed, and are most common after the second vaccine. It is acceptable to take acetaminophen and/or ibuprofen to treat those symptoms if they appear, but it is not recommended to take these medications before vaccination to prevent symptoms before they start, as it is unknown if they may interfere with your body's antibody response and vaccine effectiveness.

The VAERS, or Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System is a national program managed by the CDC and FDA to monitor the safety of all vaccines licensed in the United States. You can learn more about how to report to VAERS [here](#). The CDC has also launched V-Safe, a smartphone-based tool that allows you to report any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine and also sends reminders about your second vaccine dose. [Click here](#) to learn more and access the tool.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a powerful tool to help us protect ourselves and those around us from the virus. Thank you for your consideration as we work together to stop the spread of COVID-19.

### **Please note the following information from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

- *This product has not been approved or licensed by FDA, but has been authorized for emergency use by FDA, under an EUA to prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for use in individuals 18 years of age and older; and*
- *The emergency use of this product is only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of the medical product under Section 564(b)(1) of the FD&C Act unless the declaration is terminated or authorization revoked sooner.*

