

Baptist Health COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 1/3/21

Who is eligible to receive the vaccine?

- On December 23, 2020, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis issued an executive order limiting vaccination for the time being in Florida to “long-term care facility residents and staff, healthcare personnel with direct patient contact, seniors age 65 and older, and other extremely vulnerable populations.”
- At Baptist Health, we are currently administering the vaccine to employees and frontline healthcare personnel, prioritizing those who work in areas with the most exposure risk. [Click here](#) for eligibility and contraindications.
- Based on the governor’s order, we are beginning to administer the vaccine to eligible members of the Baptist Health community who are age 65 and older or have other risk factors resulting in extreme vulnerability. Additionally, we are making plans to be able to provide the vaccine to patients who meet criteria and also to the community at large in the coming weeks.

Is Baptist Health providing the vaccine to seniors and other vulnerable populations yet?

- Our first priority is to continue the administration of vaccinations, including the mandatory second dose, to our frontline workers to provide for their safety and strive to have the workforce we need facing this profound healthcare challenge ahead.
- Simultaneously, based on vaccine availability, we are also making plans to offer the vaccine to eligible, high-risk members of the Baptist Health community, patients who meet criteria and also to the community at large in the coming weeks.
- A vaccine distribution of this magnitude is a very complex process, requiring a high degree of pharmacy expertise and skill and a coordinated effort at federal, state and local levels, including the ongoing supply of vaccines. We are working with state and local leaders as well as other organizations to identify and coordinate community vaccination access as quickly as possible.
- We will be communicating more information about how to make an appointment as those details are finalized. The most updated information is available on our website- www.baptisthealth.net/coronavirus/vaccine

Are all physicians and clinicians eligible to receive the vaccine?

- The health and safety of our staff is our highest priority, and that includes physicians and clinicians who practice at Baptist Health facilities, as well as community physicians and clinicians. Medical staff members, community physicians, and their support personnel who work in settings where patients are seen are eligible to receive the vaccine in accordance with Baptist Health’s vaccine prioritization guidelines.

Will employees be required to take the COVID-19 vaccine?

- No. The vaccine is offered on a voluntary basis. Employees who are eligible for the vaccine according to the distribution guidelines below may choose whether to receive it. We strongly recommend that employees appropriate to receive the vaccine do so.

COVID-19 Vaccine Facts

Which vaccines is Baptist Health administering?

Baptist Health is administering the Pfizer-Bio-NTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to our employees and frontline healthcare personnel, including our medical staff.

How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine?

Studies have shown the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to be 95 and 94.1 percent effective, respectively.

Does the vaccine contain the live virus?

No. Unlike traditional vaccines, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are messenger RNA vaccines — also called mRNA vaccines. They are manufactured, not cultured. According to the CDC, mRNA vaccines 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 if the real virus enters our bodies.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Extensive clinical trials were conducted to evaluate the COVID-19 vaccine. No serious safety concerns have been reported.

How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are required?

The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, administered 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine requires two doses, administered 28 days apart.

Will I need to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing after getting the vaccine?

Yes. While the vaccine has been shown to prevent individuals from getting sick from COVID-19, experts are still investigating whether the vaccine prevents you from being contagious if you are infected. The CDC recommends that everyone continues using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least six feet away from others, following CDC travel guidance, following quarantine guidance after an exposure to someone with COVID-19 and following any applicable workplace or school guidance. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others offers the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

Do I still need to get vaccinated if I already had COVID-19 and recovered?

If you have been positive for COVID-19 and/or are not currently in the isolation period, you may wait 90 days after infection to take the COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC suggests reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection and thus persons with documented acute infection in the preceding 90 days may defer vaccination until the end of this period, if desired.

After my first vaccine, can I get a second vaccine from a different manufacturer?

No. You should complete the series of vaccines with the same product.

If I got the flu vaccine, can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine should be administered at least 14 days after any other vaccine, including the flu vaccine.