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**Subject:** IMPORTANT UPDATE 12/22/2020: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

UPDATED DETAILS AS OF DECEMBER 22



**Say Yes to the Covid-19 Vaccine**

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

Last week marked a significant milestone in the fight against COVID-19 as we began to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to our frontline healthcare personnel.

Following the FDA's authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, Baptist Health received an initial allotment of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine from Jackson Health System and we began offering it to our employees and caregivers, including medical staff, on a voluntary basis in phases by pre-determined groups, beginning with those with the most risk for exposure to COVID-19.

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine has now also been approved for emergency use by the FDA, and we have received our first direct allotment of this vaccine.

The response to the vaccine by our frontline healthcare personnel and medical staff has been extremely positive. We will continue to receive additional supply of the vaccines in the coming weeks, and will continue to add appointment availability as we receive additional doses of the vaccine. We expect to be able to provide the vaccine to all employees and medical staff members who wish to receive it during your corresponding phase/priority group.

Please note, we have changed our registration process to better align with the prioritization guidelines and ensure staffing continuity. Additional details are below.

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 (see priority phases below). At this time, only personnel listed under phase 1A are eligible to receive the vaccine.

**PROCESS CHANGE:** If you are interested in receiving the vaccine and meet the phase 1A priority group criteria, please notify your leader, who will compile a list of eligible employees

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, you will be provided instructions in the email confirmation regarding who to contact.

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.

We will send another communication when we are ready to accommodate phase 1B.

### **Location**

This week and next week, vaccinations are taking place at the Hilton Miami Dadeland Hotel on the campus of Baptist Hospital.

We will add vaccination locations in Palm Beach County beginning on December 28th.

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**

All employees and direct patient care personnel, including medical staff, who wish to receive the vaccine will be eligible to receive the vaccine according to their priority group unless they have a contraindication. At Baptist Health, we are prioritizing our phased vaccine distribution to our healthcare personnel per guidelines established by the Florida Department of Health based on [CDC recommendations](#) as follows.

### **Phase 1A:**

During the first phase of vaccination, the initial limited doses will be given to healthcare personnel who are most likely to come into contact with patients who have or may have COVID-19.

- Patient care and support personnel who work in the following areas:
  - COVID-19 units
  - Respiratory Therapy
  - Patient care units (for example: ICU, Med/Surg, Labor & Delivery)
  - Emergency Departments
  - Urgent Care Centers and Urgent Care Express locations

- Practices who see patients with acute flu-like illness that might be COVID-19 (not limited to BHMG)
- Personnel who support patient care areas with at-risk/immunocompromised patient populations
  - Miami Cancer Institute and Lynn Cancer Institute
- Personnel who support areas noted above including but not limited to:
  - Residents and fellow trainees, Laboratory personnel, pharmacy, patient transporters, radiology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work, case managers, rehab and environmental services
  - Emergency CODE response team members

**Phase 1B:**

- Employees and medical staff members who are included in Phase 1A but were unable to receive a vaccine during Phase 1A
- All Baptist Health employees or healthcare providers, including medical staff, who work in a setting where patients are seen
- Any employees and medical staff who are over 75 years old and above

**Phase 1C:**

- Any employees and medical staff who are 65-74 years old

Please note: CDC and Department of Health guidelines do not allow us to provide the vaccine for family members during Phase 1. We are only able to provide the vaccine for employees and other direct patient care personnel, including medical staff, at this time.

**Phase 2:**

- Any employees or members of the medical staff who are not in the phase 1 groups.

**Contraindications**

You should not receive the COVID-19 vaccine if the following applies to you:

1. You have a history of severe allergic reaction to vaccines (such as anaphylactic reaction requiring use of adrenaline autoinjector)
2. You have had a vaccine in the last 14 days, including the flu vaccine
3. You have been treated for COVID-19 with plasma therapy or monoclonal antibodies within the last 90 days.

If you are immunocompromised, you may accept the vaccine, but it may be less effective than in healthy individuals. Please consult with your physician.

[Pregnant women](#) and those who are breastfeeding may take the vaccine, but they should consult with their physician prior to doing so.

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 therefore, individuals with documented acute infection in the preceding 90 days may defer vaccination until the end of this period, if desired.

### **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.

### **About the COVID-19 Vaccine**

Studies have shown the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to be 95 and 94.1 percent effective, respectively. Extensive clinical trials were conducted to evaluate these COVID-19 vaccines. No serious safety concerns have been reported.

After vaccination, 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 and staying at least 6 feet away from others.

About the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine:

1. [EUA Letter](#)
2. [Fact sheet for vaccine providers](#)
3. [Fact sheet for vaccine recipients and caregivers](#)

About the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine:

1. [EUA Letter](#)
2. [Fact Sheet for vaccine providers](#)
3. [Fact sheet for vaccine recipients and caregivers](#)

### **Questions**

Please direct any questions to your local Occupational Health team during office hours ([click here](#) for Occupational Health locations and contact information), the Occupational Health Hotline number after hours at 786-596-2345 or via email at [COVID19Vaccine@baptisthealth.net](mailto:COVID19Vaccine@baptisthealth.net).

You can also access our frequently asked questions, by [clicking here](#).

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.*

