

FAQs (as of 2-3-21) Updates in yellow

COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization, Logistics, Vaccine Insights

Who is eligible to receive the vaccine?

Employee groups, based on a tiered and sequential rollout, will receive an email directly from COVID.VACCINE@Jefferson.edu, inviting them to schedule a time to receive a vaccine. Employees who have direct patient contact are at the top of our priority list and will be eligible to receive the vaccine first. Moreover, we have prioritized those clinical employees who are at the highest risk of COVID-19 such as those in our EDs, ICUs and COVID units. As more vaccine supply becomes available, distribution will extend to other healthcare providers, and then to employees, students and patients.

If I had COVID already, should I still get the vaccine?

Yes, you should still get the vaccine as long as it has been at least 90 days since you had COVID-19. We believe immunity lasts for at least as long as 90 days. While there does not appear to be any downside to receiving a vaccine earlier than 90 days, we recommend this approach to allow prioritization of individuals who are not immune.

Can I get the vaccine if I have medical problems (i.e. hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease)?

Yes, you can receive the vaccine. In fact, we strongly encourage individuals with medical problems such as these to be vaccinated since COVID-19 can be more severe in individuals with these conditions.

Where can I get more information about the rationale for how employee and student groups were tiered?

An interdisciplinary, and diverse enterprise-wide task force used CDC guidelines and state and local guidance to determine how groups have been tiered.

How do I sign up to get the vaccine?

Once you are eligible to receive the vaccine, based on our phased and tiered approach, you will receive an email inviting you to schedule a time to receive a vaccine.

What PPE is required for the vaccination site?

You are required to wear a mask at the vaccination site.

How long should I anticipate being at the vaccination site?

You should expect to be at the vaccination site for approximately one hour (60 minutes).

What should I do if I'm experiencing symptoms of COVID the day of my vaccination appointment?

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and contact your local Student Health Services office. You will be able to reschedule your appointment for a later date.

Will I be tested for COVID prior to receiving my vaccination?

No, you will not be tested before receiving the vaccine.

What should I do if I start to feel sick after I go home or leave the vaccination location?

Immediately after receiving your vaccine you will be observed by our staff for any signs of adverse reaction. If you start to feel sick after later, please contact your local Student Health Services office.

Can I get COVID from a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. The vaccines do not contain live virus and therefore cannot cause COVID-19.

After receiving my first dose of COVID vaccine, I was exposed and tested positive for COVID. Can I still receive my second dose of the vaccine?

Per CDC guidance, vaccination of persons with COVID should be deferred until the person has recovered from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and [criteria have been met for them to discontinue isolation](#).

This recommendation applies to persons who have COVID before receiving any vaccine doses as well as those who have COVID after the first dose but before receipt of the second dose.

When will I get communication about the follow-up dose? Do I have to get it at the same vaccination site?

You will be scheduled for the second dose when you receive the first vaccination. Yes, you need to receive the second dose at the same location.

What should I do if I miss the recommended 3 to 4 week window for my second vaccine dose?

You should reschedule as soon as possible. The CDC suggests that you should certainly receive the second dose no later than 6 weeks after the first dose. If it is beyond 6 weeks, please call your healthcare provider for further guidance.

If I get the vaccine, am I able to relax social distancing guidelines and/or reduce my PPE usage? Do I still need to wear a mask?

Regardless of your vaccination status, you are still expected to wear a mask on campus and follow social distancing guidelines until notified otherwise.

If I received a COVID-19 vaccine from another source, how does that get documented?

Contact your local Student Health Services office to document your vaccination from an outside source. If you have multiple options for receiving the vaccine, you will need to make the decision that is best for you.

Can I get a second dose at Jefferson if I did not get my initial dose at Jefferson?

No. We can only provide the follow-up dose if you received your initial COVID vaccination at Jefferson.

What do we know about the Moderna and PfizerBioNTech vaccines?

Both vaccines are mRNA vaccines -- a new type of vaccine. A small bit of viral genetic material (mRNA) that is the genetic code for a COVID-19 viral protein is injected, like any vaccine, taken up by our cells, and produces a small bit of a viral protein which causes our immune system to produce antibodies that provide protective immunity against the virus.

How effective do we believe these vaccines to be in preventing COVID-19 infection?

Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna report that their vaccines are roughly 95% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection. These are highly effective vaccines.

What do we know about side effects from the vaccine?

So far, the companies report no serious side effects from the tens of thousands of people who have received them. They have reported pain and swelling at the injection site and low-grade fevers over the first few days after vaccination. Some cases of hypersensitivity reactions to vaccination have been reported. We are prepared to handle any such reactions if they occur. We hope to have a better understanding about vaccine side effects as we move forward with vaccination. Long-term side effects from vaccines are rare. Most side effects are expected to occur within the first 6 weeks of a vaccine. We will not know about long-term side effects for some time.

How will I know if this vaccine is right for me?

We are fortunate to have tremendous expertise in immunology and vaccine science. We will be sharing our take on the evidence for these new vaccines to help you make a good decision. Many people are basing their decisions on their own personal risk of developing COVID-19, and the risks of people who they come into contact with regularly – either patients, community members or loved ones.

How is the vaccine given?

It is given just like the influenza vaccine which is injected into the muscle. Both of these COVID-19 vaccines require 2 doses – an initial vaccination and repeat vaccination 3 or 4 weeks later. There are other vaccines under

investigation that require only 1 dose, but we do not know when, or if, those vaccines will be proven safe and effective.

How long will I be protected from COVID-19 with the vaccine?

We do not know how long immunity from vaccination will last. Some vaccines require regular booster shots.

I am pregnant or planning for pregnancy. Should I be getting the vaccine?

Pregnant patients may still be vaccinated. While the World Health Organization (WHO) advised pregnant women not to take the Moderna vaccine unless they are a health care worker, have preexisting conditions, or in a life or death situation; scientifically, both Pfizer and Moderna are safe for pregnant women to take—at any point in their pregnancy and while breastfeeding. Thousands of women in the U.S. have been vaccinated safely with these vaccines. What WHO stated is that we now have data to support that Pfizer is safe for pregnancy. There is less or limited data on the Moderna vaccine. However, these are very similar mRNA vaccines that are safe. Shortly after WHO made their statement, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) released their own statement, clarifying that no pregnant person should be withheld vaccination. Women who are pregnant or breast feeding are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider if they have further questions.

Will I receive a card that documents that I received this vaccine so I can show it when I travel?

You will receive a card that will be important to document your vaccination here at Jefferson. Whether it will have any value outside of Jefferson remains to be determined.

Will there be enough vaccine to go around?

We expect vaccine to become available in phases. The first phase will be somewhat limited and directed only to healthcare workers at highest risk for COVID-19 infection. As we receive more deliveries of vaccine over the coming weeks and months, we plan to offer COVID-19 vaccination to every Jefferson employee and student. We are also developing plans to vaccinate our patients starting with those at highest risk (older patients, those with certain chronic medical problems, and some children).

Who can I speak to if I have questions or concerns about the vaccine or if I believe I should be receiving the vaccine sooner?

Contact COVID.VACCINE@jefferson.edu with questions or concerns.