

## COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

### **Q: Are you a registered vaccination site?**

A: All LMH Health clinics are enrolled as registered sites for vaccinations. Within our clinics, patients at higher risk will be triaged first. Our population health team is reviewing patient data to ensure the process can be as streamlined as possible.

### **Q: Is the vaccine free? How is the vaccine being paid for?**

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot to someone. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

### **Q: Is one vaccine better than another?**

No, both vaccines will produce the same results. They have both completed clinical trials and have data which demonstrate the vaccines are safe and effective. The FDA and CDC review the data thoroughly before granting an Emergency Use Authorization.

### **Q: How many doses are needed, and why?**

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses. Pfizer 21 days apart, Moderna 28 days apart. A majority of COVID-19 vaccines in clinical trials require two doses. The first dose primes the immune system, helping it recognize the virus. The second dose strengthens the immune response. Receiving both doses will provide the best protection against COVID-19.

### **Q: Did LMH Health get Pfizer or Moderna vaccine?**

LMH Health initially received shipments of the Pfizer vaccine and received Moderna vaccine soon after. The same vaccine must be used for both doses.

### **Q: Will the vaccine be mandatory?**

No. The vaccine cannot be required while under an emergency use authorization. However, we do encourage everyone to receive the vaccine.

**Q: How safe is the vaccine?**

The FDA carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials and authorizes emergency vaccine use only when the expected benefits outweigh potential risks. Then, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews all safety data. The FDA and CDC will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, to make sure even very rare side effects are identified. Any approved vaccines will have undergone the same level of safety protocol as previous vaccines.

**Q: How can I trust a “rushed” vaccine?**

Unfortunately, the name “Operation Warp Speed” gives the impression that clinical trials were rushed. However, other vaccines have been approved with similar Phase III Clinical trial timelines. In comparison, the Shingles vaccine was studied for 13 months, the Hepatitis-B vaccine was studied for 6.5 months and COVID-19 trials have 6+ months of clinical data.

**Q: Is the COVID-19 vaccine a “live” vaccine?**

No. The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain a live virus or carry a risk of causing disease in the vaccinated person. mRNA technology has been studied and researched for years. To learn more about how mRNA vaccines work, read what the CDC has to say [here](#).

**Q: If I have had COVID-19, should I still get vaccinated?**

Yes. Evidence has demonstrated evidence of reinfection, so you should consider getting vaccinated.

**Q: Is it better to get natural immunity to COVID-19 (by getting sick & getting better) or getting my immunity from the vaccine?**

It is unknown how long protection lasts for those who get infected or those who are vaccinated. However, COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.

**Q: Will the vaccine cause me to test positive for COVID-19 on a test?**

No, the vaccine will not cause you to test positive on viral tests for COVID-19. (Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results, as the vaccine works to induce antibodies to protect you.)

**Q: Does the vaccine interfere with my DNA?**

No. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nuclei of our cells, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept. The cell breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using the “messenger” instructions.

**Q: Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause me to feel unwell for a few days?**

Fever is a potential side effect and your arm may be sore, red or warm to the touch. Symptoms typically go away on their own within a week. Side effects are a sign that the immune system is working.

**Q: How will side effects be tracked?**

You or your healthcare provider may submit side effects and adverse events to **VAERS** – Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Report mild side effects to your primary care provider. For severe side effects, report to the nearest emergency department or call 911. You will also be able to use **VSAFE** – A smartphone-based tool that checks in with patients to ask about side-effects after receiving COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q: Now that I have received the vaccine, I am ok to not wear a mask, right?**

This is incorrect. When you receive the first shot you do not become immediately immune and it takes a few days for your body to start developing antibodies. Please continue wearing a mask, social distancing, avoiding large gatherings and washing your hands often.

**Q: Now that there is a vaccine, will COVID go away soon?**

Though we wish we could say this is true, unfortunately things will not go back to how they were before COVID just yet. To achieve herd immunity, about 70 percent or more of the population will need to be vaccinated first. Though this will take time, we are hopeful that with a vaccine and community members continuing to do their active role to stop the spread, that the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter and brighter.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility FAQs

We know that many people are hopeful to receive a COVID vaccination soon and have questions. When will the vaccine be available? When will I be eligible? We know it's frustrating to wait for these important details. Please know we will share information as soon as it is available.

### **Q: Are you a registered vaccination site?**

A: All LMH Health clinics are enrolled as registered sites for vaccinations. Within our clinics, patients at higher risk will be triaged first. As we await details from the state and county for Phase 1B, our population health team is reviewing patient data to ensure the process can be as streamlined as possible.

### **Q: Who is eligible for the vaccine in Phase 1?**

A: Phase 1 distribution of the vaccine includes healthcare workers; residents or patients in long-term care (LTC), senior housing or LTC-supported independent living; and workers critical to pandemic response continuity.

### **Q: Who is eligible for the vaccine in Phase 2?**

A: People in Phase 2, according to the KDHE, include:

- People 65 years of age and older
- People who live in congregate care settings
- High-contact critical workers, as defined by the [Department of Homeland Security](#)

### **Q: The CDC names phases differently and recommends people age 75 and older get vaccinated in Phase 1B? Are you following the CDC or the KDHE guidelines?**

A: We recognize that there are differences in the CDC and KDHE guidelines when it comes to the names of phases and the age of eligible patients. We will be dependent on the guidelines that the KDHE and Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH) implements when determining who will be eligible in this phase.

### **Q: How will people be notified as to when they can receive the vaccine? Do we have to contact the provider to make an appointment or will there just be an announcement that the vaccine is available?**

A: Patients will be notified about when and where they can receive the vaccine through traditional media (including TV, radio, newspaper), social media and our website. Please visit [lmh.org/vaccine](http://lmh.org/vaccine) and watch LMH Health's social media channels for the latest information. At this time, there is no need to contact your provider to sign up for the vaccine.