

# Vaccine FAQs

Below are responses from MARC Public Affairs to questions that were submitted during the January 25, 2021 Zoom session on vaccines. If you have additional questions, please visit the [CDC's FAQ section](#) or contact your local health department.

## General

### **Is the vaccine free?**

*The vaccine is free to the patient.*

### **Will each state receive vaccines from each company?**

*Yes, Pfizer and Moderna, and now Johnson & Johnson, are being distributed to Kansas and Missouri.*

### **Do we get to pick which pharmaceutical company vaccine we get vaccinated with?**

*No. The best vaccine is the one that's available to you.*

### **Will getting vaccinated be an annual thing like the flu shot?**

*The current thinking is that the COVID-19 vaccine will become an annual shot or shots.*

### **Will being vaccinated be required for the staff of child cares in the future? Will it be a state regulation?**

*The answer to this will be determined in the future.*

## Jurisdiction Specific

### **Do we need to register with our local health dept for the vaccinations or will we be automatically notified?**

*Public health departments and some health care providers in the Kansas City region have developed surveys to help identify residents who want to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to them under Missouri and Kansas priority guidelines. You can find a list of these surveys on [prepare metro kc.org](http://preparemetrokc.org). Some hospital systems are contacting patients directly but, for the most part, residents interested in receiving the vaccine will need to complete a survey.*

### **If you have registered with the health department for the vaccine and it is your "turn" will they tell you where to go to be vaccinated?**

*Approved vaccinators, such as public health departments, are using interest surveys to sort people by eligibility. You will be contacted once it's your turn. Be sure to check your email junk mail folder and answer phone calls, in case you're being contacted to make an appointment for vaccination. The vaccinator will provide you with all the information you need.*

**Will businesses (ie, preschool/daycare providers) need to provide legitimate employment verification if employees do not have company badges?**

*We'd encourage you to check with your local jurisdiction or approved vaccinator.*

**What do we need to provide for proof to receive vaccination?**

*Check with your vaccinator for this information.*

**Will staff members getting vaccinated have an effect on being able to stay open/shutting down classrooms if there is a positive case at the center?**

*This is jurisdiction specific and case specific.*

**We are part of a parochial school — the school nurse may be administering the vaccine to the grade school teachers. Will she be able to vaccinate our early education staff?**

*This is jurisdiction specific. Each is required to follow the state's recommendations.*

**Can large centers get a nurse to come onsite to vaccinate staff?**

*Maybe. Check with your jurisdiction on those opportunities.*

**Will there be vaccination clinics for child care providers in Missouri?**

*Maybe. Check with your jurisdiction on those opportunities.*

**For those over 16 that have contact with children in home daycares, will they be vaccinated in phase 2?**

*When certain groups are able to be vaccinated depends on where the group falls in the eligibility guidelines and local allocation of the vaccine.*

**Are family members who live in the same house as an in-home daycare provider eligible for the vaccine in phase 2?**

*Eligibility for each individual in a household is based on local and state guidance.*

**Kansas does not include pastors in any list. If our program is located within a church, can those pastors be vaccinated under our program?**

*You can talk with your county or local public health departments for this information.*

**Why has Johnson County, Kansas gone to phase 2 eligible citizens before finishing all of the phase 1 eligible?**

*We'd encourage you to reach out to Johnson County on this question. Each county is required to follow the state's recommendations and will make further prioritizations based on their population and allocation of vaccine.*

**Has any county been able to start vaccinating child care workers at this time?**

*When certain groups are able to be vaccinated depends on where the group falls in the eligibility guidelines and local allocation of vaccine.*

## Employer Specific

**Can I require parents to have the vaccine if they want to enter our program, or to ask them to show proof they have had it?**

*At this time, employers may decide.*

**Will staff members getting vaccinated have an effect on being able to stay open/shutting down classrooms if there is a positive case at the center?**

*At this time, employers may decide based on their jurisdiction and company policies.*

## Protocols

**The news has said that people who are allergic to medication have a good chance of having a reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine. Since I am allergic to a list of medications, will there be someone there to respond if anyone has a reaction to the vaccine? How long will it take to know if you will have a reaction?**

*Trained medical personnel will be on site and available to assist you, if needed. Please visit the CDC webpage on allergies and the vaccine [here](#).*

**Are there issues with getting the vaccine if you have already had the virus?**

*The CDC recommends getting the COVID-19 vaccine even if you've previously had the disease. At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Once you are out of isolation/quarantine and are without symptoms, you can receive the vaccine.*

**Is there a certain amount of time after having COVID that you should wait to get the vaccine or can you get it anytime?**

*The CDC recommends getting the COVID-19 vaccine even if you've previously had the disease. At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Once you are out of isolation/quarantine and are without symptoms, you can receive the vaccine. If you have questions, speak to your health care provider.*

**If you get sick at all with COVID symptoms after the second vaccine, do you still have to take the COVID test?**

*You may experience some common and expected side effects after your vaccination. Those are typically mild and may last up to several days. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you can consult your healthcare provider or sign up to get tested.*

**If you have gotten both doses, if you are exposed do you still quarantine?**

*People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease within the last three months and show no symptoms. You can read more on the CDC website:*

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>*

**How long do they feel the vaccine will protect?**

*The current thinking is that the COVID-19 vaccine will be an annual shot or shots.*

**Is there conversation about adding this vaccine for children at some point?**

*At this time, the vaccine will not be given to anyone younger than 16 years for Moderna and 18 for Pfizer. Clinical trials for older adolescents are occurring at this time. More research on pediatric vaccination is under way.*

## Safety

**What advice do you have to give someone who is nervous to get vaccinated because they fear it isn't safe?**

*COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and have followed the same rigorous process as all other accepted vaccines. Over 63 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in the United States from December 14, 2020, through February 21, 2021. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA). Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines will undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.*

## Medical

**Is it a problem getting steroid shots in you knee during the same period as the vaccines?**

*We recommend talking with your health care provider about this question.*

**If I have experienced side effects from vaccines in the past, should I be leary of the COVID vaccination?**

*We are seeing very few, and they are quite consistent with those of other vaccines. Most people who experience any side effects at all will experience some injection-site irritation or mild pain. A few may feel some fatigue, a mild headache or a low-grade fever. The side effect profile is very similar to that of the flu shot. Any side effects should last no more than 24-48 hours. Current data show that the side effect profiles for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are very similar and increase slightly with the second dose. Talk to your health care provider if you have concerns about your specific situation.*

**I have several young women as employees who are worried about the effects of the vaccine on fertility. Is there any information on this?**

*The vaccine does not cause sterility. People who want to get pregnant in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Based on current knowledge, experts believe that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to a person trying to become pregnant in the short or long term. Scientists study every vaccine carefully for side effects immediately and for years afterward.*

*The COVID-19 vaccines are being studied carefully now and will continue to be studied for many years, similar to other vaccines. The COVID-19 vaccine, like other vaccines, works by training our bodies to develop antibodies to fight against the virus that causes COVID-19, to prevent future illness. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of ANY vaccine. People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them. If you have concerns, consult your healthcare provider.*

**Is it safe for pregnant women?**

*People who are pregnant and part of a group recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine may choose to be vaccinated. A conversation between pregnant patients and their clinicians may help them decide whether to get vaccinated with a vaccine that has been authorized for use under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). While a conversation with a healthcare provider may be helpful, it is not required prior to vaccination. Anyone with concerns is encouraged to talk with their doctor.*