



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 VACCINATION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

December 18, 2020

When will the vaccine arrive?

- We have received initial doses of Pfizer vaccine – a total of 25,000 are being shipped.
- Front-line emergency staff in hospitals, and residents and staff of long-term care facilities will be our first priority for vaccination.
- Additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine are expected over the coming weeks, with expansion of vaccination to all healthcare workers in any setting and continued priority on long-term care settings.

Who is next in line for vaccine?

- As more vaccine is distributed over the coming months, vaccinations will be expanded to other groups such as essential workers and high-risk groups such as those with chronic disease and over age 65 as determined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- The schedule of future vaccine arrivals is hard to predict right now, but vaccinations for the general public will probably not be available for several months.
- In the meantime, everyone should continue to adhere to social guidelines to stop the increasing spread of COVID-19 in the state.

Where can I get the vaccine?

- Vaccine will first be distributed to hospitals for their front-line healthcare personnel.
- CVS and Walgreens will distribute the vaccine to Mississippi's long-term healthcare facilities.
- Eventually, the vaccine will be available at drive-through sites throughout the state much like our current testing model.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

- Like most vaccines, you should expect some soreness and fatigue for up to a day after vaccination, a sign that the body is developing a proper immune response.
- Two vaccinations, 21 to 28 days apart (depending on type of vaccine) will be required for full effectiveness.
- The slight side effects far outweigh the risks of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

- No, you can NOT catch COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- Research has not shown any major side effect to the vaccine.
- If you have any questions, consult your primary healthcare giver.

How do you know the vaccine is safe?

- Numerous studies over the last several months have been thoroughly conducted.
- The Mississippi State Department of Health has studied the data since day one.
- COVID-19 vaccine has gone through the same rigorous process for evaluating safety and effectiveness as any other vaccine approved for use by the FDA.

Who can take the vaccine?

- Individuals 16 and older are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine, and individuals 18 and older will be eligible for the Moderna vaccine.
- Pregnant women and lactating women and those who are immunocompromised may take the vaccine; however, consultation with your healthcare provider is recommended.
- People with a history of severe allergic reactions or anaphylaxis should consult with their primary healthcare provider prior to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Who should not take the vaccine?

- You should not take the vaccine if you are allergic to any of its components.
- You should consult with your physician first if you have had severe reactions from previous vaccines or injectable medications.
- For more details, see the *Contraindications* section of [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) on the CDC website.

Should I get the vaccine if I have tested positive for COVID-19?

- Yes, you can receive the vaccine after testing positive for COVID-19 when certain criteria are met.
- You should wait until the isolation period is over (10 days after the onset of symptoms or 10 days after the test was done if you had no symptoms).
- You should not have a fever, and if you do have symptoms they should have improved significantly before getting vaccinated.