

COVID-19 vaccine - initial rollout

Talking Points for Patient Access Representatives **Updated - December 14, 2020**

This document is intended for BJC/WUSM employee use only, not for the general public.

Initial rollout timeframe and availability

- Nationwide, the first round of vaccines will go to health care personnel and the staff and patients of long-term care facilities. According to public reports:
 - After this priority group has had an opportunity to receive the vaccine, the next group is essential workers, which includes teachers, food service workers in the community, first responders and those supporting critical infrastructures.
 - After that, it will be offered to individuals with conditions that make them high-risk for complications from COVID-19, including those ages 65 and older.
 - Then it will be offered to the general public. It is expected to be several months after the vaccines are released before they are available to the general public.
 - COVID-19 vaccine delivery to the general public will likely be coordinated by the local health departments. BJC's participation in vaccinating the public is not known at this time.
- Decisions about who to prioritize for access to a COVID-19 vaccine are made by federal and state public health agencies. BJC is required to follow these prioritization decisions.

Vaccine information:

Pfizer and Moderna are the two manufacturers who will provide the initial supply of COVID-19 vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine has been FDA approved for Emergency Use Authorization and will be the first to arrive at BJC for health care providers, in mid-December.

- Eventually, we expect the COVID-19 vaccines to be available to everyone.
- Online resources with more information on COVID-19 vaccines:
 - [COVID FAQs](#)
 - [FDA – more information about COVID-19](#)
 - Missouri – <https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/>
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
(No Illinois resource available currently.)

Current use:

- BJC and Washington University are working closely together to ensure their health care personnel have the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Vaccination is advisable, including for those who have had COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccination is not required for BJC and WashU employees at this time.

Vaccine safety and patient care protocols

- The FDA, CDC and vaccine oversight and review advisory committees review the available information and determine if the vaccines authorized for use are safe and effective at protecting against COVID-19. To date, only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for use. The Moderna vaccine is expected to be approved later this month.
- The CDC, along with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other federal partners, will use established safety systems to conduct safety monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines as they are used more broadly.
- At this time, the most common reported side effects of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are fever, headache, fatigue, and body or muscle aches in the days immediately following vaccination. It is possible these side effects will be more prominent than what is experienced after a flu shot. From early reports, these effects are more common after the second dose.
- The COVID-19 vaccine cannot infect someone with COVID-19.
- All BJC and WashU staff will continue to wear masks, personal protective equipment and practice current COVID-19 safety protocols, regardless of their vaccination status.
- Patients and visitors will also continue to be required to wear masks and undergo symptom screening on arrival to our facilities for the foreseeable future.
- Current guest/visitor policies and other facility policies related to COVID-19 will remain in place until further notice.
- BJC/WU will communicate to the community regularly about vaccine availability.