

# COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

## What vaccine are staff and residents being offered at Columbine Health Systems?

We have been told that Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine will be provided for our Skilled Nursing Facilities. We will let you know whether Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna will be provided for others.

## When will it be available to staff and residents at Columbine Health Systems?

Walgreens will be holding vaccination clinics at each facility – hopefully beginning at the end of December. They are offering 3 clinics, 21-28 days apart from each other to accommodate for the second dose of the vaccine to be administered. They are providing us a 10-day notice for the first clinic, so let's get prepared now!

## How effective is this vaccine?

You need both doses to achieve 95% effective rate.

## What are the side effects?

Expect to have **pain at the injection site, fever, fatigue, or a headache**. These are temporary side effects (1-2 days), and are good signs. Imagine your inner body is running a marathon and producing the tools necessary for your immune system. Your body is doing amazing things! The goal is to achieve a 95% vaccination rate, welcome to the 95% club!

Please utilize OTC medications (think -Tylenol) to help alleviate the symptoms. Older adults typically have fewer side effects and less severe side effects.

## Are there any reasons I should consult my doctor prior to being vaccinated or reasons I should not get the vaccine?

If you have a history of anaphylactic reaction, please talk to your doctor prior to getting the vaccine.

## Will this vaccine give me COVID-19 infection?

Nope. It's impossible as the vaccine does not contain live virus.

## What if I have had COVID-19, should I still get vaccinated?

Yes! You may develop even more immunity – which is a good thing.

## Can I be a priority in receiving the vaccine based on my co-morbidities?

Everyone will have an opportunity to get vaccinated. For the first time EVER in history front line workers are a priority! We are the first to be offered and that means everyone has a chance at protection via vaccine. Talk to your physician if you have specific questions about your unique situation.

## Do we still need to wear these annoying masks and face shields?

Yes, of course. The vaccine is an added tool in our tool belt to get this virus under control. Please also continue to wash your hands frequently, social distance, and to keep your personal, outside of work bubble small.

## How much does it cost?

It's free. Please have your insurance information available on vaccine day. If you do not have insurance, worry not! It is still free.

## What if I take the first dose of the vaccine and I discharge before the second dose if offered (21 days after first dose)?

We welcome you back to the facility to get your second dose during the next scheduled clinic date.

## What if I am pregnant, plan on becoming pregnant, or lactating (supplying breast milk for a child)?

A conversation with your OB/GYN will be helpful in determining benefits of the vaccine outweighing the possible risks. COVID-19 vaccines should not be withheld from pregnant individuals, or those planning to become pregnant. They should also be offered to individuals who are lactating.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

<https://www.fda.gov/>

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

<https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/vaccinating-pregnant-and-lactating-patients-against-covid-19>

