CHAP Community Health Accreditation Partner

Employee FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccination

1. <u>**Can my employer require proof that I am vaccinated?**</u>

Yes, if an employer asks for proof that you have received the COVID-19 vaccinations, you can provide your *vaccination record card*. You do not need to provide any other personal medical information.

2. <u>**How will I remember to get the second shot?**</u>

Each person getting the COVID-19 vaccine receives *a vaccination record card* that tells you when to get the next dose. You can also enroll in **v-safe**, a smartphone app that uses text messaging after your vaccination to check on how you are feeling, and it will remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

3. <u>**What if I miss my second shot?**</u>

If you get the 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine but are not able to get the 2nd dose when scheduled, you can bring your *vaccination record card* to another location giving vaccinations to get the second dose. It is important that you get the same vaccine for both your first and second dose. Do not mix the different brands like Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna. Your *vaccination record card* tells you which brand you received, get the same brand for the second shot.

4. <u>**What if I can't be vaccinated for medical or religious reasons?**</u>

Some people may be at risk for an adverse reaction because of an allergy to one of the vaccine components or a medical condition. CDC provides recommendations for people who have had allergic reactions to other vaccines and for those with other types of allergies. You may refuse vaccination due to a medical condition or for religious reasons. If you are pregnant, the CDC recommends that you discuss getting the vaccine with your healthcare provider as the vaccines were not tested on pregnant people during the trials.

5. <u>**Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am working for a company that is contracted to provide staff or if I am an independent contractor and working in an agency?**</u>

It is important to ask your manager or supervisor to find out where you can get vaccinated as soon as it is available to you. You may be able to be included in vaccinations being given where you are working, or you may be asked to contact your doctor's office, a pharmacy, your local health department, or vaccination sites set up by your state or local government. To learn where vaccinations are available, ask your employer or contact your local health department.

6. <u>**After I'm vaccinated, can I stop social distancing and wearing masks?**</u>

No. Vaccines work with your body's immune system to be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Covering your mouth and nose with a mask and staying at least 6 feet away from others, reduces your chances of being exposed to the virus and spreading it to others. At this time in the pandemic getting vaccinated for COVID-19 <u>and</u> following CDC's recommendations for wearing a mask and social distancing are the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

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7. If I have side effects from a COVID-19 vaccination, can I still work?

You should be able to work after getting your first and your second vaccination. You may have some side effects, swelling or soreness at the injection site, fever or chills or feeling tired, all are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects are usually mild and should go away in a few days. To date, CDC reports that some people are experiencing more side effects after the second dose.

The vaccine will not give you COVID-19. You could have been exposed to the virus before testing, so if you continue to feel sick, contact your doctor and ask about getting a COVID-19 test. It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccine may not protect you until a week or two after your _second shot_ (dose).

The CDC also has a smartphone app called "**v-safe**" to check on people's health after they receive a COVID-19 vaccine. If you enroll in **v-safe**, you can tell CDC if you have any side effects. If you report serious side effects, someone from CDC will call you to follow up. They will also remind you when your second dose is due. You can get more information at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

8. I haven't gotten a flu shot yet. Should I?

Getting a flu vaccine is important to protect your health and your family's health. A flu shot is useful any time during the flu season and can often be available in January or later.

A flu vaccine will not protect you from getting COVID-19, but it can prevent you from getting influenza (flu) at the same time as COVID-19. This can keep you from being more severely ill.

You should wait at least 14 days after getting the COVID-19 vaccine before getting a flu shot.

If you have questions about getting the COVID-19 vaccine, please talk to your manager or supervisor. They have information and facts to share with you. The vaccine is important to protecting you, your patients, their families and yours, and your community. Your community will need 70-80% of people to get the vaccine to move closer to 'normal' in the coming months.