

# COVID-19 Vaccinations – What You Need to Know

December 23, 2020

NewYork-Presbyterian, Weill Cornell Medicine, and Columbia Doctors are preparing to distribute COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available.

COVID-19 vaccinations will be prioritized according to guidelines defined by state and federal agencies, and vaccines are expected to be distributed in phases. For our organizations, the initial COVID-19 vaccine distribution will include team members who work with COVID-19 patients.

At this time, vaccines are not yet being offered to the general public or others who do not meet the guidelines outlined by state and federal agencies. We anticipate that will change in the future.

## General FAQs

### **I have more questions about the vaccine or vaccinations. Who should I contact?**

Please check emails, and the videos and other information posted on the NYP Infonet, for the latest updates. If you still have questions, you may call the WHS COVID Hotline at 646-697-9470 or send an email to [Vaccines@nyp.org](mailto:Vaccines@nyp.org).

## Getting Vaccinated

### **If I receive the first dose of the vaccine, am I guaranteed to get a second dose?**

At the time of receipt of the first dose, you will be scheduled for your second dose.

### **How many NYP, Weill Cornell, and Columbia staff have been vaccinated so far?**

The number of NYP, Weill Cornell, and Columbia healthcare personnel (HCP) who have been vaccinated is shown on the Infonet and Epic COVID-19 vaccine dashboard. Front-line healthcare personnel including physicians, nurses, and support staff who work in ICUs and EDs or support the work of the ICUs and EDs are being prioritized. All HCP who want to be vaccinated will be vaccinated as quickly as possible.

### **When will vaccines be distributed this week, through Dec. 26?**

We will continue to vaccinate 24 hours a day (excluding December 25) until we get through the latest shipment, the priority groups continue to be front-line staff and those providing on-site support.

### **I am eligible to receive the vaccine now but was not able to be vaccinated with my department. Will I still be able to be vaccinated in the future?**

We recognize that some HCP may miss getting the COVID-19 vaccine the first go around. They will be able to be vaccinated. NYP has developed a plan for further vaccine distribution that is also dependent on NYS Department of Health Department guidance and vaccine supply, **HCP will be informed by their managers, supervisors, department chairs, or program directors when it is their turn to be vaccinated.**

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## Planning for the Vaccine

### **When will staff members working in patient-facing roles outside of the Emergency Departments and ICUs get vaccinated?**

We are working to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to NYP, Weill Cornell, and Columbia University health care personnel as quickly as possible but it will depend on the amount of vaccine that we receive over time. **Staff will be notified by their supervisors when vaccine is available to them.**

### **How can I schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Currently, you cannot schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Based on CDC and NYS Department of Health guidance, we are now vaccinating NYP, Weill Cornell, and Columbia University ED and ICU health care personnel (including providers, nurses, and ancillary staff) across all the NYP campuses. We have developed a plan for further vaccine distribution that is also dependent on NYS Department of Health Department guidance and vaccine supply, **HCP will be informed by their managers, supervisors, department chairs, or program directors when it is their turn to be vaccinated.**

### **Can inpatient or outpatient providers can walk in or register for a COVID-19 vaccine?**

No, inpatient providers cannot walk in for COVID-19 vaccine now. Currently NYP, Weill Cornell, and Columbia University health care personnel including providers, nurses, and ancillary staff who work primarily in the EDs and ICUs are being vaccinated across all the NYP campuses. We have developed a plan for further vaccine distribution that is dependent on NYS Department of Health Department guidance and vaccine supply, **HCP will be informed by their managers, supervisors, department chairs, or program directors when it is their turn to be vaccinated. Please do not go to a vaccination site unless you have been told to do so.**

## COVID-19 Vaccine for Women Pregnant or Breastfeeding

### **Can you provide information about fertility planning, pregnancy and breastfeeding and the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Experts from the CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have issued guidance for the Pfizer-BioNtech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant and breastfeeding individuals. Both ACOG and ACIP recommend that pregnant individuals or those planning to become pregnant who meet vaccination criteria based on CDC's recommended priority groups for vaccination, which currently include health care personnel, may choose to be vaccinated. For lactating (breastfeeding) individuals, ACOG recommends that may be offered the vaccine similar to non-lactating individuals.

[Click here](#) to see Dr. Forese and Dr. Laura Riley Discuss the COVID-19 Vaccine for Women Pregnant or Breastfeeding.

### **References**

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Guidance for Vaccinating Pregnant and Lactating Patients Against COVID-19: <https://www.acog.org/en/clinical/clinical->

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[guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/vaccinating-Pregnant-and-Lactating-Patients-Against-COVID-19](https://www.williamsbrock.com/guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/vaccinating-Pregnant-and-Lactating-Patients-Against-COVID-19)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance on the Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/hcp.html>