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COVID-19 Vaccines Frequently Asked Questions

The following frequently asked questions, or FAQs, are intended to help answer some common questions you may have about COVID-19 vaccines.

Q: When can I get the vaccine?

- A. Federal, state and local authorities, following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), have determined who will receive the vaccine first. The vaccines will be given in “phases” that focus on specific groups of people. Right now, the first phase to receive the vaccination are the medical and emergency workers at the highest risk of exposure. This is to keep as many healthcare workers healthy and available to care for patients. We do not know how long the first phase will last.

The next phase of the distribution will be Phase 1B, which will include other essential workers and higher risk patients. As of now, we do not anticipate COVID-19 vaccines will be widely available to the general public until later in 2021.

Q: What can I do to stay healthy until the vaccine is available?

- A. It is critical that everyone takes steps to stay healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Local hospitals are already strained caring for significant numbers of COVID-19 patients. To help prevent the spread and reduce the pressure on hospitals and the health care system:
- Don't gather in the presence of those outside your immediate household. If you must, wear a mask and stay at least six feet apart.
 - Wear a mask when in public, even in outdoor locations.
 - Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, scrubbing thoroughly and rinsing completely.
 - If you have symptoms, stay home, and seek care from your health care provider.

Q: Can I get on a waiting list for the vaccine?

- A. There are currently no waiting lists for vaccines. We want to be able to get these vaccines to our patients as quickly as possible when it becomes available. When we have updates, we will communicate with our patients and the community.

Q: Can I get updates by calling Access?

- A. We understand people are eager to learn more about vaccines, but we kindly ask that you do not call our clinics for information about COVID-19 vaccines at this time before it is available to the general public. This helps reserve our staffed phone lines for patients calling who are experiencing active symptoms or have acute care needs.

Q: How can I stay up to date on when Access will have the vaccine?

- A. We will communicate with our patients and community when we have updates about the availability of vaccines.

Q: What are the known side effects of the vaccine?

- A. Vaccine studies have identified some side effects, which are normal signs that the body is building protection against future infection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. They include fever, tiredness, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and headache. Studies also showed that side effects were more common after the second dose of the vaccine.

Q: How long after receiving the vaccination will I develop immunity and how long will it last?

- A. It is currently believed that immunity will develop within weeks of receiving the second dose of the COVID vaccine. At this point, we won't know how long immunity lasts until we have more people who have received the vaccine and more data on how well it works.

Q. Will there be a cost to get the COVID vaccine?

- A. Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot to someone. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

Q: Where can I learn more about the vaccine and how it will be distributed?

- A. If you are interested in reading more about vaccines, two great sources are the [CDC](#) and the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#).