

COVID-19 VACCINE GUIDE FOR PATIENTS

As Baptist Health and other health systems continue to work with states for vaccine distribution and appointments, it is our mission to help you and members of your family be informed of current availability of the vaccine, guidelines on who is eligible, and up-to-date locations in Kentucky and Indiana that are administering the vaccine.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE?

- **Kentucky has a dedicated vaccine website for the public.**
The intent of this site is to help people understand if they are eligible. And, if they are, where they can go to get a vaccine. Visit vaccine.ky.gov or call the state COVID-19 Hotline at 855.598.2246 for assistance or general questions about the vaccine (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., ET).
- **Indiana also has a dedicated vaccine website for the public.**
Visit coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine for eligibility and other details.

WHERE ARE VACCINES CURRENTLY BEING ADMINISTERED IN KENTUCKY?

Visit govstatus.egov.com/kentucky-vaccine-map to view the most up-to-date list of healthcare facilities administering the vaccine. These locations can change, so be sure to reference this site.

CAN I RECEIVE THE VACCINE AT BAPTIST HEALTH HARDIN?

- **Appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations must be made by calling 270.706.1004 or visiting hmh.net** and not by calling Baptist Health hospitals or medical practice locations.
- If Baptist Health Hardin has available doses and is currently administering the vaccine, and you are in an eligible vaccine phase, you may **schedule your vaccine by calling 207.706.1004 or visiting hmh.net**. Phone lines and registration will be operational based upon available doses.
- We are working to administer vaccinations as quickly as possible, but getting vaccines to everyone who wants one will take time. Please be patient, as supplies are limited.
- More appointments will be made available as we receive shipments of the vaccine.



Wearing a Mask



Social Distancing



Sanitizing Often



Avoiding Large Gatherings

IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE?

- COVID-19 vaccines now being administered have received emergency use authorization from the FDA. The FDA authorizes emergency vaccine use only when the expected benefits outweigh potential risks.
- Each vaccine was tested in large clinical trials, with diverse populations, to learn more about its safety and effectiveness. No serious safety concerns were identified; however, it does take time and more people getting vaccinated before we can learn about very rare or long-term side effects. That is why safety monitoring will continue. The CDC has an independent group of experts that reviews all the safety data as it comes in and provides regular safety updates. Any possible problems will be quickly investigated to find out if the issue is related to the COVID-19 vaccine and determine the best course of action.
- **You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.**

HOW WILL I FEEL IMMEDIATELY AFTER GETTING THE VACCINE?

It is normal to experience a mild response after getting the vaccine. Your arm may be sore, red, or warm to the touch. Some people report getting a headache, fever, fatigue or body aches after getting a vaccine. This is a sign of the body's immune response to the vaccine, and is more likely with the second, or booster, shot. Most symptoms usually go away on their own in 24 to 48 hours or after no more than a few days.

HOW MANY DOSES ARE NEEDED AND WHY?

The two vaccines now authorized in the United States require two doses. The first shot starts building protection, but everyone has to come back a few weeks later for the second dose to get the most protection the vaccine can offer. The first dose will not provide complete protection, and it will take about seven days after your second dose before you will achieve a full protective level of immunity, which develops in about 95% of cases.

IF I HAVE HAD COVID-19, SHOULD I STILL GET THE VACCINE?

Yes. People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated.

IF I'VE HAD THE COVID-19 VACCINE, WILL IT CAUSE ME TO TEST POSITIVE ON COVID-19 VIRAL TESTS?

No.

WILL I HAVE TO CONTINUE TO WEAR A MASK AND OBSERVE PHYSICAL DISTANCING AFTER RECEIVING BOTH DOSES?

Yes. It will still be very important to continue wearing a mask, wash your hands frequently, and keep your distance when around people who don't live in your household until the pandemic is under control, and we know more about how the vaccines prevent transmission.