
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Duke University Health System" <noreply_crm@email.dukehealth.org>

Subject: Keeping You Informed About COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Date: December 10, 2020 at 9:32:09 AM EST

To:

Reply-To: "Duke University Health System" <reply-fecb11707566037b-23_HTML-156373184-100002580-43@email.dukehealth.org>

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is in the final stages of safety review and is expected to be approved by the FDA for emergency use authorization shortly. In anticipation, Duke Health is working in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to efficiently and equitably distribute the vaccine while following federal and state guidelines on the prioritization and distribution. We are writing to keep you apprised of the planned distribution of the vaccine, and to let you know how you can receive more information from Duke experts during an [online panel discussion](#) on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

Please know that our top priority is the safety and well-being of our patients, their loved ones and each other. Before distributing any vaccine, Duke experts will review all safety and efficacy data for any authorized vaccine to ensure the science supports its use. Once we receive the vaccine, these are the planned initial distribution phases:

- The first phase of distribution includes health

care workers who have the highest risk for exposure to the virus.

- Subsequent phases will address adult patients and health care workers at high risk of complications from COVID-19 infection as defined by the CDC.

Based on guidelines established by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, **Duke Health will contact you when it is time for you to receive your vaccine.** We encourage you to register for a MyChart account if you have not already for convenient communication with our team. Visit dukemychart.org to register for your account.

If you are pregnant and in an early vaccination phase category, you may be eligible for vaccination if allowed under the emergency use authorization and CDC recommendations. Consult with your obstetric care provider regarding the potential benefits of the vaccine balanced against the unknown possible risks.

At this time, the vaccine has not been fully studied in children and is not yet approved for people younger than 18 years old. We will update you as data on COVID-19 vaccines in children become available.

While we wait for the COVID-19 vaccine to be available, we encourage you to do your best to stay healthy by wearing a mask, maintaining 6 feet of distance, staying home when sick and washing your hands. If you haven't already, it is also important to get your flu vaccine to help keep you safe and healthy during this flu season.

If you would like to know more about the COVID-19

vaccine, [we encourage you to join us](#) Tuesday, December 15 from 4:30 pm – 5 pm for our monthly "Ask the Expert" series. You will hear from Duke Health infectious disease experts, including Dr. Cameron Wolfe, as they discuss the latest COVID-19 vaccine developments. The panel will also answer your questions to help protect you and your family from infection.

Thank you for your help in limiting the spread of the virus during this challenging time. Together, we can keep you, your loved ones and our community safe and healthy.