

COVID-19 Vaccine

Q. When will the vaccine be available?

A. Initial vaccine doses are prioritized for critical populations, including healthcare workers, residents and workers in long-term care, as well as first responders, in accordance with guidance from the CDC, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). After that, the general public will have the ability to be vaccinated as supplies allow, which is estimated around spring of 2021.

Q. Will St. Luke's eventually be administering COVID-19 vaccinations to the public like we do with flu shots?

A. At this time, local public health departments are planning how to vaccinate the public. Similar to the seasonal influenza vaccine, it is expected that eventually the COVID-19 vaccine will be available through your local pharmacy, primary care physician or clinic. Dependent on patient volumes in our hospitals, we may be able to participate in a public COVID-19 vaccine program. There are many partners in our region and nation's vaccine efforts, including the CDC, DHHS and local health agencies, who are guiding all hospitals and public health agencies through this process.

Q. How will I be getting the vaccine?

A. At this time, we do not have any more information on where and when our patients or the public will get the vaccine. There are many partners in our region and nation's vaccine efforts, including the CDC, DHHS and local health agencies, who are guiding all hospitals and public health agencies through this process. The details of what roles each organization will play are still being determined. We encourage you to visit the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 vaccine website, covidvaccine.mo.gov. It has the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 vaccine for our state.

Q. Can I be added to a waitlist to receive the vaccine?

A. There is currently no waitlist for individuals to sign up to receive the vaccine. We encourage you to visit the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 vaccine website, covidvaccine.mo.gov. It has the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 vaccine for our state.

Q. If supply is limited, will the doses run out before I get mine? Could they run out if I get the first and haven't received my second dose yet?

A. According to federal officials with Operation Warp Speed, after the first doses are given, the second dose will be reserved to be given three to four weeks later, depending on which vaccine you initially received.

Q. When will the vaccine be available for my kids?

A. Currently, there is not a COVID-19 vaccine approved for children under the age of 16. Existing guidance states this vaccine is only available to individuals over the age of 16. For safety reasons, new vaccines are typically tested on adults before trials start on children, and the COVID-19 vaccine researchers are following this protocol. We do not have a timeline of when they will be available for those under 16 years of age.

For more information, you can visit the following websites for updated information as it becomes available:

Missouri Residents:

covidvaccine.mo.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Website:

cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19