



Michigan COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points

Mar. 15, 2021

Michigan residents are encouraged to sign up for the vaccine as soon as it's available to them.

- Getting vaccinated to prevent COVID-19 is our best hope for ending the pandemic.
- Those that are eligible to sign-up and receive the vaccine include residents 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities and caregiver family members and guardians who care for children with special health care needs, and frontline essential workers such as healthcare workers, long term care workers, and food and agriculture workers.
- Beginning Monday, March 22, vaccine eligibility will again expand to include all Michiganders ages 16 and older with disabilities or medical [conditions that put them at high risk of negative COVID-19 outcome](#).
- Starting on Monday, April 5, all Michiganders age 16 and up who were not previously eligible will be eligible to receive a vaccine.

There are multiple options available for residents to sign up for a vaccine appointment, to ensure residents of all ages and technological access and understanding can sign up.

- Residents should visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine or their local health department or hospital website for sign-up or registration forms.
- Residents can also call the Michigan COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 2-1-1. Multiple languages can be served by phone.
 - Within communities, residents can also check additional vaccination sites, such as local pharmacies like [Meijer](#), [Kroger](#), [Rite Aid](#), and [Walgreens](#) for additional sign-up forms.
 - Target and CVS are partnering to provide vaccinations which will be available in Michigan soon.
- The federal government has also begun adding COVID-19 vaccination sites to VaccineFinder.org.
- A regional mass vaccination site will open on March 24 at Detroit's Ford Field and will administer 6,000 doses a day for two months. More detail about scheduling for this site will be available soon.
- Michigan has awarded 35,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to 22 pilot projects across the state in an effort to help enhance the vaccine distribution equity. [Learn about the participating sites here.](#)

Every resident who wants a vaccine, will get a vaccine.

- Michigan is expanding vaccine eligibility as supply allows, which is dependent on guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the supply of vaccine from the manufacturer, how vaccine is allocated from the federal level to Michigan, and the capacity to administer the vaccine to populations.
- It's important to note that public health partners across Michigan are moving as quickly as possible to make vaccine available.
- With more than 2 million doses administered, and 1 million residents fully vaccinated, we recognize that many residents are waiting patiently for their turn.
- To date, more than 40% of Michiganders age 65 and older have been vaccinated.
- We all need to continue preventative measures such as wearing masks properly, social distancing, and hand washing to reduce the spread of COVID in our communities even as the vaccine is being administered.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is free or low-cost for Michiganders. There will be no out-of-pocket costs to individuals for the vaccine, however, healthcare providers may bill insurance for administrative costs.

The best COVID-19 vaccine is the one you are able to get the soonest.

- As of March 15, 2021, three vaccine manufacturers, Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson, have been authorized for use under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Additional vaccines are being developed.
- xMichiganders are encouraged to learn about the testing and safety data behind the vaccine and make the decision to get vaccinated when available to them.
- All three authorized COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe and effective in preventing COVID-related hospitalization and death in thousands of clinical trial participants.
- Even the two-dose vaccines offer some protection after the first dose.
- Once the vaccine is received, individuals can sign up for V-Safe through their smart phone to share side effects and to get a reminder about the second dose.
- Individuals who receive the vaccine may experience mild side effects such as low-grade fever, sore arm and fatigue, which indicate that the vaccine is working.
- There is a robust state and national process for tracking vaccines and reporting side effects. VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System is a surveillance system that monitors adverse events associated with vaccines.

While scientists worldwide are working to develop COVID-19 vaccines faster than any before, they are still following the proven process because there can be no shortcuts to safety.

- COVID-19 vaccine approval is a medical and scientific approval based entirely on safety and effectiveness data, with any and all political pressure rejected.

- Past research on vaccines has identified potential successful approaches which has reduced the development time for a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Many vaccines are being developed, and some are ready before others. The significant impact of COVID-19 has led to unprecedented, worldwide collaboration among scientists, medical doctors, health and government officials, and manufacturers.
- COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials for younger children and adolescents are underway. Ensuring vaccines are safe is a critical process that begins during vaccine development and clinical trials and continues after vaccines are authorized or approved for use. This process has been used for vaccines for flu, polio, measles, mumps, pertussis and more.

It will take all of us – federal, state and local leaders, health departments, and all residents – to ensure everyone can get the safe and effective vaccine.

- Michigan is following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations for prioritization of distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Michigan has also obtained input and correspondence from a stakeholder group of public health and health care leaders, and the public.
- Michigan has launched the [Protect Michigan Commission](#) to ensure that every Michigan resident has the most up-to-date information on the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Michigan is following the [vaccine prioritization guidance](#), as well as the [Social Vulnerability Index](#), to ensure an equitable distribution of vaccine for high risk populations – including communities of color and older residents.

Michigan’s distribution of the vaccine continues in a [phased approach](#), with an emphasis on ensuring the continuing functioning of the health care system and essential services in the community, and protecting people at increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

- Vaccination in one phase may not be complete before vaccination in another phase begins and will likely overlap.
- The timing of the start of vaccination in a phase is dependent on guidance from CDC and ACIP, the supply of vaccine from the manufacturer, how vaccine is allocated from the federal level to Michigan, and the capacity to administer the vaccine to populations.
- Phases are as follows:
 - **Phase 1A** includes paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents of long-term care facilities.
 - **Phase 1B** includes some workers in essential and critical industries, including workers with unique skill sets such as non-hospital or non-public health laboratories and mortuary services.
 - **Phase 1C** includes individuals age 16 years or older at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions, and all people 65 years and older.

- **Phase 2** is a mass vaccination campaign for all individuals 16 years of age or older.
- The State of Michigan and its partners will be providing information to eligible employers about which types of workers are eligible for vaccination and how these workers can be vaccinated.
- Rather than calling your local health department, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine for the most current information for all residents about how to get vaccinated. Please do not go to a clinic for vaccination without an appointment.

A COVID-19 vaccine is part of how we in Michigan spread hope, not COVID.

- Based on recent statewide research, 66% of Michiganders are “likely” or “very likely” to get a COVID-19 vaccine – 34% of whom would get one “as soon as it is available.”
- The common reasons cited for not getting a vaccine as soon as possible involve safety, effectiveness and trust.
- Michigan is working to overcome these concerns, in part, by empowering residents to protect their family and loved ones by learning about the vaccine.

If you have questions about vaccines, make sure to seek a trusted source with answers based on medical science.

- When you are eligible to receive the vaccine, talk to your health care provider about the benefits and potential risks of getting the vaccine and your medical history.
- Sources for vaccine information based entirely on medical science include [Ivaccinate.org](https://www.Ivaccinate.org), the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.michigan.gov/health), and the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov).

Sources:

- MDHHS: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html
- I Vaccinate: <https://ivaccinate.org/vaccinations-during-covid-19>
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/making-vaccines/prevent-covid>
- CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- HHS: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/strategy-for-distributing-covid-19-vaccine.pdf>