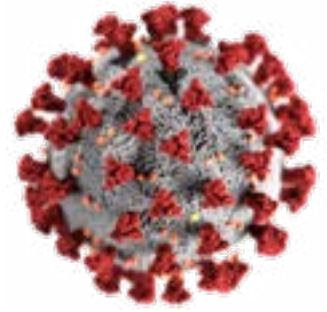# COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

Is it my turn to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The state recently announced that participants in UIC's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) program may now be eligible for the vaccine. The date of availability will vary by where you live.

The current vaccination phase includes the following individuals:
- **People age 16 - 64 with underlying medical conditions** that increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19. These individuals include DSCC participants age 16 and older.

  Please note that there is no vaccine yet for children under age 16.
- Individuals may also be covered in previous eligibility categories. For a full list of eligibility categories, go to https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccine-plan-overview.

Am I required to get the vaccine?

The choice to get the vaccine is optional. There is no federal or state mandate to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC recommends the vaccine to all Americans 16 and over.

What are the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 can cause severe medical complications and can lead to death in some people. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. If you get COVID-19, you could spread the disease to family, friends and others around you.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect you by creating an antibody response in your body without you having to become sick with COVID-19.

A COVID-19 vaccine might prevent you from getting COVID-19. Or, if you get COVID-19, the vaccine might keep you from becoming seriously ill or from developing serious complications.

Getting vaccinated also might help protect people around you from COVID-19, particularly people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

-Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

UIC SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

Where can I get the vaccine?

You will need to make an appointment to get vaccinated. Locations offering vaccines vary depending on where you live.

Illinois has a statewide vaccination locator at https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location. The site is searchable by zip code and city. Check back regularly as new sites are added daily.

Additionally, individual health departments will share specific county information about COVID-19 vaccine availability and eligibility through their websites, social media and local media outlets.

Some healthcare provider practices are directly reaching out to eligible patients if they have vaccine ready to distribute. Please watch news sources in your community to see if your provider makes an announcement.

Do I need to bring anything to my appointment?

You may be asked for personal identification, such as a driver's license or state ID. Providers may NOT ask individuals to provide documentation regarding their immigration status.

How much will the vaccine cost me?

There is no cost for the vaccine. It is possible that healthcare providers may charge a fee to administer the vaccine. Health insurance will cover these fees. Those who are uninsured and unable to pay the administration fee cannot be turned away.

Do I still need a vaccine if you have already had COVID-19?

Yes. The science is currently inconclusive on whether you will be naturally protected from a second COVID-19 infection in the future. The CDC currently suggests that if you were infected with COVID-19 during the previous 90 days, it is likely that you still have immune protection and that you will be asked to wait to receive your vaccine to allow others to be vaccinated first.

Where can I go to find more information on the vaccine?

Your county health department (See Illinois' local health department directory)

Illinois Department of Public Health

Center for Disease Control and Prevention