

## **FAQS ABOUT GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE IN DELAWARE**

### **When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Delaware's vaccine deployment plan is led by the Division of Public Health and the State of Delaware's COVID Vaccine Task Force. The state is currently in phase 1b, and has given Westside guidance that we can vaccinate our patients who are aged 65 and older. You can find more about the State's plan at <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/>.

### **How will I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The Delaware Department of Public Health (DPH) is phasing-in vaccine eligibility. If you are a Westside patient, we will reach out to you to schedule for the vaccine as you become eligible. If you are not a Westside patient, you'll be able to get a vaccine from your primary care provider, a pharmacy, or a vaccination clinic run by the State or its partners; visit the State's website ([de.gov/covidvaccine](https://de.gov/covidvaccine)) for more information. Updates will be made on Facebook and on our COVID Vaccines webpage ([www.westsidehealth.org/covidvaccines](http://www.westsidehealth.org/covidvaccines)).

### **I am a Westside patient. How do I schedule an appointment for the vaccine?**

At this time, we will be reaching out directly to eligible patients by text message or phone call to schedule an appointment when the vaccine is available. We are experiencing high call volumes, so we encourage you to send your questions to us directly to our Email Contact Form <https://www.westsidehealth.org/feedback/>.

### **I am not a Westside patient. How do I schedule an appointment for the vaccine?**

At this time, Westside is focusing vaccine efforts on our patients. If we are able to expand to community vaccination, we will make updates on Facebook and on this webpage.

### **What COVID-19 vaccine is Westside offering?**

Westside is offering the Moderna vaccine, and can only give first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine. We will not give a second dose of vaccine to someone who received a first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

### **How long will my vaccine appointment take?**

To help maintain social distance, please arrive as close to your appointment time as possible. After getting your COVID-19 vaccine, you will be monitored for 15-30 minutes by Westside staff. Please plan for this extra time before coming to your appointment.

### **Can I bring a caregiver or guest with me to my appointment?**

If you need assistance, you may bring a guest or caregiver to your vaccination appointment. To keep our patients and staff safe from COVID-19, please limit guests and caregivers to one person. In some cases, we may ask the caregiver to wait outside or in their car during the appointment.

### **I got a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine somewhere else, can I get a second dose at Westside?**

We are only able to vaccinate a priority group of existing patients who are 65 and older, based on state guidelines. We can vaccinate this group with a first or second dose. Westside is offering the Moderna vaccine, and can only give first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine.

**How long do I wait between doses of the Moderna vaccine?**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that the second dose of the Moderna vaccine can be given between 28-42 days after the first. We are following all vaccine guidelines as closely as possible. Westside will only schedule appointments within this period.

**What is the difference between the Moderna vaccine and the Pfizer vaccine?**

Both vaccines are mRNA vaccines and function very similarly but they are stored and administered differently. They are not interchangeable. One is not “better” than the other.

**How much will the vaccine cost?**

The vaccine will have no cost.

**How many doses of vaccine do I need?**

Westside is offering the Moderna vaccine. You must receive two doses of the Moderna vaccine to be fully protected.

**Will I still need to wear a mask after I get the vaccine?**

Yes. According to the CDC, experts are still learning how a vaccine will provide protection under real-life situations. For that reason, everyone will need to continue following CDC guidelines such as wearing a mask over your mouth and nose, frequent hand washing, and maintaining six-feet away from others.

**How do I find out about the vaccine if I do not live in Delaware?**

You can find information on the vaccine plan in your state on the CDC’s COVID-19 Vaccine website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>.

**Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?**

If you have questions, talk with your healthcare provider who can help you make a decision about getting the vaccine.

**What side effects will I get from the COVID-19 vaccine?**

You may experience mild symptoms, such as a sore arm, minor swelling, or fatigue. Symptoms should go away on their own within a few days. If your symptoms continue for longer than a few days or are serious, contact your healthcare provider.

**I had COVID-19, do I still need to be vaccinated?**

Yes. It is possible to get COVID-19 again. The vaccine will give you protection from the virus.

**Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?**

No. Neither the Moderna vaccine nor Pfizer vaccine contain any virus that could cause COVID-19.