

Answer the Call to Stop the Spread

Am I required to get the vaccine?

In line with the Priests of the Sacred Heart and in the interest of the common good, SHSST will be encouraging, not mandating, your COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the President-Rector directly.

How is the vaccine being distributed or 'rolled out'?

[See the attached flyer from WI Dept. of Health Services \(DHS\)](#). Wisconsin is participating in the federal distribution program. Typically, vaccinators organizations like health care systems and local health departments, do not know how many vaccines will be available for distribution until the Monday of the week they are distributing vaccines. Most organizations are not setting up waiting lists, but calling or texting patients to schedule appointments. This is why many people who are eligible have not been called yet. People in eligible populations are getting appointments on a randomized basis week to week. They are being contacted by their health care provider or by a local health department or other retail organizations they are registered with.

Currently eligible populations

- Frontline health care personnel
- Residents in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities
- Police and fire personnel, correctional staff
- Adults ages 65 and over

Next eligible groups

- Education and child care
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs
- Some public-facing essential workers
- Non-frontline essential health care personnel
- Facility staff and residents in congregate living settings

DHS anticipates the 'Next eligible groups' will be eligible for the vaccine around March 1 (pending Wisconsin's vaccine supply from the federal government)

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>



Wisconsin has over 1,200 COVID-19 eligible vaccinators across the state. Eventually, the vaccine will be more readily available through pharmacies and mass vaccination clinics. As of the time of this newsletter, health care systems and local health departments primarily are distributing the vaccine.

- To find out more about local health systems' vaccine distribution processes, read the highlights from [Journal Sentinel 'How Groups Plan to get Vaccine to Patients'](#) (01/24/2021 issue, p 10a)
- To find out more about how to register at local health departments, read [Journal Sentinel 'Milwaukee-Area Phone Numbers, Hotlines, Email Addresses and websites for Vaccine Info, Appointments'](#) (02/07/2021 issue, pp 6a-7a)
- Additionally, Meijer Foods is a vaccinator organization offering vaccine appointment times. Register at <https://clinic.meijer.com/>

Pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS Health were originally contracted to only service residents and staff of nursing homes and assisted living facilities that participate in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long Term Care Program, which is a federal public-private partnership. These pharmacies have each begun to administer vaccines to eligible populations, in select areas across the country:

- **Walgreens:** Walgreens has been selected by the CDC and the US Dept. Health and Human Services to provide a limited number of COVID-19 vaccinations across 15 states and jurisdictions as part of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. **Vaccinations will begin in stores February 12.** The 15 states include: Chicago, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, New York City, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, Vermont, Wisconsin and West Virginia. Walgreens to Expand COVID-19 Vaccinations as Part of Federal Retail Program Feb 02, 2021 . Starting February 12, appointments can be made through Walgreens updated Appointment Scheduler at [Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine](https://www.walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine)
- **CVS Pharmacies** – Vaccinations have begun in certain locations in Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Puerto Rico (<https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine#statetool>).

In the news

- *Journal Sentinel* – Daily COVID-19 Case Reports: [Sunday 02/07/2021](#), [Monday 02/08/2021](#)
- *WI Department of Health Services Newsletter* – [click here](#).
- *CDC* – [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccinations](#) (updated 1/25/2021)

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) or the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services at [combatcovid.hhs.gov](https://www.combatcovid.hhs.gov).

We are all in this together!

Important! Because it will take time for everyone to get the vaccine, you should continue to wear a mask and wash your hands with soap and water and avoid crowds, even after getting vaccinated. We are here to help and support you. Please email HR@shsst.edu with any questions or concerns you might have regarding the vaccine.

Presented to you by Human Resources & Communications