

# **COVID-19 Phase 1A Vaccine Distribution Information**

#### **The Bottom Line**

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved emergency use of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is in the final planning stages for <u>Phase 1A</u> distribution to health care workers who are at highest risk of contracting COVID-19, based on occupational and individual risk factors.

COVID-19 vaccines are **free** with no out-of-pocket costs requested.

<u>This screening tool</u> is the first step to receiving the vaccine. It will aid MCDPH in determining your eligibility and connecting you with your assigned regional vaccine provider, based on your primary work location.

#### **Required Pre-Screening**

- Completing the <u>pre-screening application</u> is required.
  - The pre-screening application only needs to be completed once.
  - Complete the pre-screening application immediately, as vaccination sites will not be open for extended periods of time. This will avoid qualified health care workers having to wait until the next Phase to receive the vaccine.



- Complete the pre-screening even if you are not sure you qualify for Phase 1A distribution or are not sure you are ready to take the vaccine. Completing the pre-screen application is required in order to receive the vaccine but receiving the vaccine is **optional**.
- You will be asked to provide identification (such as a driver's license number) as part of the screening process. Information collected in this screening tool will only be accessed by MCDPH and will not be shared outside of public health.

If you have any questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine pre-screening or need help filling out the <u>requisite form</u>, please email <u>COVID19prescreen@maricopa.gov</u>.

## **Scheduling Your Vaccine Appointment**

- Maricopa County does **not** require health care workers to receive the vaccine.
- After completing the pre-screening application, if you are determined to be eligible for the vaccine during Phase 1A, you will receive a notification with details on how and where to set an appointment. MCDPH is advising this notification could take several days to arrive.
- Beginning the week of **Dec. 21**, Maricopa County is expected to refer those who qualify for initial distribution to the appropriate appointment reservation system.
- There will be 5 geographic points of dispensing (POD) the vaccine within Maricopa County:
  - o Northwest
  - o Southwest
  - o Central
  - o Northeast
  - o Southeast
- Health care workers may receive further information about registration from multiple sources, including MCDPH, Abrazo Health, Dignity Health, AZCHER, and/or other professional organizations.
- Although the vaccines are free, insurance information will be requested during appointment scheduling so that an administration fee can be billed to insurance if you are insured.



• You may want to schedule your vaccine appointment after your last shift of the week in case you have a normal immune response (which may include a headache, fatigue, fever, and muscle pain).

## About the COVID-19 Vaccine

- Pfizer's vaccine is an mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine that does **not** contain the complete virus or the complete viral genome. The vaccine cannot give someone COVID-19 and does not affect or interact with an individual's DNA.
- The vaccine is administered in 2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart. If you wait longer than four weeks for the second dose, it should be administered at the earliest opportunity, but no doses need to be repeated, according to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- Moderna is expected to receive <u>FDA approval</u> for its emergency COVID-19 vaccine imminently. There are a couple <u>notable differences</u> between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, but the pre-screening and registration processes to receive either vaccine are expected to remain the same. Look for more information will be available on the <u>COVID-19 Resources</u> page.

#### **Additional Resources**

- Maricopa County DPH Phase 1A information
- COVID-19 vaccine <u>distribution prioritization</u>
- Dignity Health COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ
- Maricopa County vaccine <u>distribution updates</u>
- FDA Emergency Use Authorization
- CDC <u>accelerated vaccine process timeline</u>
- Arizona Care Network COVID-19 <u>Resources Page</u>

#### **Stay Informed**

Please visit the MCDPH COVID-19 vaccine <u>Phase 1A website</u> for additional information and updates.

