



**Health Advisory #24:
COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ's
March 16, 2021**

Please distribute to all providers in the facility

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ShastaCOVID-19> for an electronic version of this Health Advisory

FOR SHASTA COUNTY PROVIDERS ONLY

The purpose of this advisory is to provide health care providers with:

- Answers to commonly asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Information on eligible groups and local vaccination options.
- How to refer homebound individuals can get vaccinated.
- New recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals in non-health care and in health care settings.

COVID-19 Vaccine: Common Questions

Where can health care providers find information on indications, contraindications and precautions for the COVID-19 vaccines?

The CDC's Interim [Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) provides current information on all U.S. authorized COVID-19 vaccines. The page is updated regularly with the most current information to help answer your patients' questions about getting vaccinated. Contraindications and precautions to COVID-19 vaccines are described in detail and nicely summarized in [Appendix B](#).

Where can healthcare providers find help answering their patients' more medically complex COVID 19 vaccination questions?

Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment COVID vax project (for more complex COVID-19 vaccination questions). Healthcare personnel in the United States can request a consultation from the Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment COVID vax project for a complex COVID-19 vaccine safety question that is about an individual patient residing in the United States and is not readily addressed by CDC guidance. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/cisa/index.html>

What side effects can be expected after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Pain or swelling at the injection the site.
- Fever, chills, tiredness, headache, or muscle aches.

Additional information about symptoms and possible side effects, as well as a link to a patient handout can be found at [Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#).

How to report negative side effects or adverse reactions?

[VAERS](#) is the long-standing national system that collects reports of adverse events that happen after

vaccination. In addition, the [V-safe app](#) is a smartphone-based health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.

Where can healthcare providers find help answering their patients' frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccinations?

The [Shasta Ready vaccine FAQ](#) page has answers to most questions patients ask about vaccinations.

Who is Eligible and Where to Get Vaccinated in Shasta County

When can individuals get the vaccine?

This [vaccine roll-out chart](#) shows the eligibility for groups of individuals who can be vaccinated in Shasta County. Patients can go to [ShastaReady.org](#) and click on "Tell Me When It's My Turn" to register to be notified when each group is eligible. Information regarding vaccination clinics is also available at [ShastaReady.org](#).

What is the guidance regarding vaccinating those at higher risk?

Beginning March 15, healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals aged 16-64 who are deemed to be at the very highest risk to get very sick from COVID-19 because they have the following severe health conditions:

- Cancer – current with weakened immune system,
- Chronic kidney disease - stage 4 or above,
- Chronic pulmonary disease – oxygen dependent,
- Solid organ transplant – leading to a weakened immune system,
- Pregnancy,
- Sickle cell disease
- Heart conditions - such as heart failure, cardiomyopathies (but not hypertension),
- Severe obesity – Body Mass Index ≥ 40 kg/m²
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

OR

As a result of a developmental or other severe high-risk disability one or more of the following applies:

- The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection,
- Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival,
- Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.

See CDPH [Provider Bulletin](#) for details.

Providers may refer their patients considered to be highest risk for severe COVID-19 for vaccination. At their vaccine appointment, patients will be asked to self-attest that their health care provider recommended they be vaccinated. Note: Patients age 16-17 should inquire in advance of their appointment whether the vaccine provider offers Pfizer vaccine.

How can homebound individuals access vaccines?

Shasta County HHSA Public Health Branch has developed a Strike Team to provide access to the COVID-19 vaccines to individuals not able to utilize any other available clinic options. Eligibility for a Strike Team visit may change based on vaccine access, program capacity, and community need. The [Strike Team Referral form](#) provides detailed criteria for determining eligibility. If you think a patient or site may be eligible for a Strike visit based on meeting the current criteria please submit a referral to DOC45@co.shasta.ca.us.

Recommendations for Vaccinated Individuals Exposed to COVID-19 or with COVID-19 Symptoms

What is the guidance for fully vaccinated individuals who are exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?

They are not required to quarantine if they meet ALL THREE of the following criteria:

1. Are fully vaccinated: i.e., two or more weeks since the individual has received their second dose of a 2-dose vaccine, or two or more weeks since receiving one dose of a single-dose vaccine; AND
2. Are within 3 months after receiving the last dose of the vaccine series; AND
3. Have not developed symptoms since the most recent COVID-19 exposure.

Fully vaccinated persons who meet the above criteria are not required to quarantine but must:

- Watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure,
- Wear a face covering every time they are out in public for 14 days after exposure. If they are unable to wear a face covering, they should not go to public places,
- Wash hands, and observe social distancing,
- If symptoms develop – get tested and self-isolate in their home.

Additional considerations may be necessary for residents and staff in health care and long-term congregate settings, and guidance is evolving as vaccination rates increase.

What is the guidance if vaccinated people subsequently develop COVID-19?

- Available information on how well the COVID-19 vaccines protect against the current variants of concern is reassuring, but we are still learning.
- For vaccinated people who subsequently experience COVID-19, prior receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine should not affect treatment decisions (including use of monoclonal antibodies, convalescent plasma, antiviral treatment, or corticosteroid administration) or timing of such treatments.
- If a person is fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks after completion of a two-dose mRNA series or single dose of Janssen vaccine) and tests positive for SARS-CoV-2, healthcare providers are encouraged to request the specimen be sent for whole genome sequencing. Please refer to Health Advisory #23 for more information with regard on to how to request whole genome sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 variants. In addition, information about these cases should be reported to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#).

Should patients be tested for COVID 19 after being fully vaccinated?

Yes, fully vaccinated persons who have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated.

If a patient has been fully vaccinated, can they test positive for COVID-19 due to the vaccine?

No, however, if they develop symptoms consistent with [COVID-19](#), they should get tested. Information about testing locations can be found at [ShastaReady.org](#) by clicking on the [Get Tested](#) link.

How are SARS-CoV-2 test results currently interpreted in vaccinated people?

Prior receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine will not affect the results of SARS-CoV-2 viral tests (nucleic acid amplification or antigen tests).