



Community Information about COVID-19 Vaccination at Wellstar Health System

April 14, 2021



COVID-19 Vaccine: An Era of Hope

To our Wellstar patients and our community,

For more than a year we have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic through challenging and difficult circumstances, to say the least. Now, as vaccines are becoming widely available in phased distribution, there is hope and healing ahead.

For those who have received the vaccine, it is important to continue practicing safety precautions. Please continue the 3Ws:

- Wash your hands
- Wear a mask
- Watch your distance

For the latest information about the vaccine at Wellstar: [wellstar.org/covidvaccine](https://www.wellstar.org/covidvaccine)

Who is Wellstar vaccinating right now?

As supplies are received, Wellstar continues to schedule vaccine appointments for our patients age 16 older who have been seen by a Wellstar Medical Group primary care provider in the past three years.

When first dose appointments become available, patients who meet the criteria will be notified in MyChart.

Because appointments may become available on short notice, make sure to check MyChart regularly. For more specific information about opportunities for vaccination, [visit the Department of Public Health website](#).



Fast Facts: The COVID-19 Vaccine at Wellstar

The best protection against COVID-19 is getting vaccinated while continuing to practice the 3Ws: Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Watch your distance.

Wellstar uses Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, both of which are about 95% effective and have minimal side-effects. Each vaccine requires two doses.

After getting vaccinated, it takes nearly two weeks for your body to build peak immunity. There is still a possibility for you to become infected and pass the virus to others after vaccination. Follow safety precautions. Wear a mask, wash your hands and watch your distance.

Wellstar Health System receives COVID-19 vaccines from DPH and vaccinates in accordance with directives from DPH. Wellstar does not determine the number of vaccines we will receive in each shipment.

How do I sign up?

We want to reassure you that – if you meet the criteria – your name is on our list and Wellstar will contact you when vaccine appointments are available. You don't have to worry about making a call or doing anything else to be on the list.

Wellstar adds new dates and locations for vaccinations to MyChart based on vaccine supplies from the DPH. An appointment exchange list is also available in MyChart for patients to request an earlier appointment if a cancellation occurs. Please note that any open earlier appointment may show as an option for you if you place your name on the appointment exchange list. You should pay special attention to the location offered because it may not be the same as the one for your current appointment.

When it is time to schedule a second dose patients will receive an invitation to choose an appointment in MyChart, via text message or phone.

Wellstar patients can set up a MyChart account at wellstar.org/mychart. If unable to establish a MyChart account, patients can call (770) 956-STAR (7827).

Information about vaccination for Wellstar patients can be found in MyChart or on the Wellstar website at wellstar.org/covidvaccine.

To streamline the process, we cannot accept walk-in requests for vaccination.



COVID-19 Vaccination at Wellstar: Frequently Asked Questions

Which vaccines does Wellstar offer?

Wellstar uses vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer. All vaccines used by Wellstar have received FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

How many doses of the vaccine are necessary, and at what times?

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses. After the initial dose, a booster is needed at either about 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna). However, if it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval, the second dose of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be scheduled for administration up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose.

How long will the vaccine protect me?

At this time, there are no studies to determine how long protection lasts.

How does Wellstar decide who gets the vaccine, and when they get it?

To develop our vaccination plan, we followed availability directives from public health agencies. We also worked closely with our own internal experts and partnered with other Atlanta-area health systems to ensure alignment.

When will Wellstar add other people to their vaccination criteria?

As Wellstar is directed to expand our eligibility criteria AND receives vaccines from DPH, additional patients and groups will be added.

How do I schedule a vaccine?

If you meet the current criteria, the good news is that Wellstar has already placed your name on a list to receive an invitation to make an appointment for your vaccine and you will receive notification either via MyChart, text message or phone call when vaccine supplies are available. That's why we encourage everyone to sign up for MyChart at [wellstar.org/mychart](https://www.wellstar.org/mychart). If you can't establish a MyChart account, call (770) 956-STAR (7827).

How do I schedule my second dose, if I need one?

When it is time to schedule a second dose, Wellstar will notify you.

What about bad reactions to the vaccine?

You will be observed for approximately 15 minutes after your vaccination to ensure you have no immediate adverse reactions, which have been very rare. You should familiarize yourself with mild and more severe reactions to the vaccine prior to your vaccination. If you have questions about whether or not you should get the vaccination, please check the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) or check with your Wellstar provider. We also encourage



everyone who has been vaccinated to consider registering with [V-safe](#), a program of the CDC.

Do I have to sign any forms to get a vaccine?

Yes. You need to sign a consent form prior to receiving the vaccine.

Do I need both the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. DPH and the CDC urge everyone to get the flu vaccine as soon as possible and the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available.

Will I need a COVID-19 vaccine every year like influenza?

Duration of protection and new strains of COVID-19 are two important factors that will determine if booster/repeat vaccination is necessary. Investigations are ongoing.

I have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. Who can I call?

Though we recommend that you check [wellstar.org](#) for the quickest and most convenient general information about COVID-19, you should check MyChart to see when your vaccine can be scheduled. Those who have additional questions can call (770) 956-STAR (7827). If you call us, please be patient as call volumes have been very high recently.

Can you make exceptions to your criteria for those who are very sick or at high risk of exposure?

We must vaccinate our patients according to direction from DPH.

I tested positive for COVID-19. Can I still get the vaccine?

Yes, but if you have COVID-19 it is recommended you wait 30 days after your positive test result. If you have COVID-19 and have also had Monoclonal Antibody Therapy or plasma it is recommended you wait 90 days.

Are there any age restrictions/limitations on the vaccine?

Children age 16 and older can get the Pfizer vaccine, and those 18 and older can get the Moderna vaccine. Additional research is needed before vaccinating younger age groups.

Is it OK be vaccinated against COVID-19 if you're pregnant?

According to the CDC, the vaccine is believed to be safe for women who are pregnant or lactating. However, please consult with your Wellstar OB/GYN provider prior to taking the vaccine. More information is available from the CDC [here](#).

If I am allergic to eggs can I receive a vaccine?

Yes. You can be vaccinated if you have an egg allergy. Both Moderna and Pfizer are mRNA vaccines and do not require egg or egg products to manufacture.

Can I trust vaccines developed so quickly?

Scientists began developing a vaccine more than a year ago when the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus genetic sequence became available, and Pfizer and Moderna had already been working with mRNA vaccines for several years. Because the vaccine includes mRNA and not a killed or attenuated virus, there's no need to grow the virus in culture, which can be a difficult and time-consuming step.

Does the vaccine contain a dead virus?

No. Neither the Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccines contain live virus. It is not possible for the vaccine to give you COVID-19.

Once I get vaccinated, can I still infect someone with COVID-19?

It is believed that an immunized person is less likely to transmit the virus, but studies are ongoing. That's why everyone must continue wearing a mask, watching your distance, and washing hands.

Can I stop wearing a mask after I get vaccinated?

Even after you are vaccinated you should wear a mask. You should also continue to practice social distancing and proper handwashing. No vaccines for any illness are 100% effective, and it takes up to two weeks after the second vaccine for the body to reach peak immunity.

Is it OK to take over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen) after vaccination?

You can take over-the-counter pain relievers after the vaccine if you develop a mild reaction such as a headache or body aches.

Visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) for additional information about COVID-19 vaccines.



Information About Vaccines

You are encouraged to speak with your physician to talk about getting a COVID-19 vaccine. And visit the [CDC website](#) for additional information.

Please visit the [Pfizer website](#) for more information about their vaccine.

Please visit the [Moderna website](#) for more information about their vaccine.