Questions

1) How did Stanford Medicine develop its principles for vaccine distribution?

2) When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available to the Stanford Medicine community?

3) Is the COVID-19 vaccine required?

4) What has been done to plan for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to essential clinical workforce?

5) How will you implement this sequenced approach to vaccine allocation?

6) Who will get the vaccine?

7) What efforts are underway to ensure the safety and wellness of our workforce?

8) Once I’m vaccinated, do I still need testing? Do I still need to wear a mask?

9) Will the vaccine prevent me from getting infected?

10) Should those who have already had (or believe they had) COVID-19 and recovered, or who had a positive COVID-19 antibody test, get the COVID-19 vaccine?

11) How many injections are required to complete the COVID-19 vaccine?

12) What are the short-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

13) What are the long-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

14) If I’m feeling sick after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, how do I know if it’s side effects or just illness? Should I stay home from work?

15) How do I report if I have a problem or bad reaction after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

16) What ongoing precautions should COVID-19 vaccine recipients take?

17) Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnant or possibly pregnant women?
1) How did Stanford Medicine develop its principles for vaccine distribution?

The Stanford Medicine community convened a multidisciplinary group of experts in ethics, infectious disease control, and operations to develop principles needed to determine an ethical sequencing for vaccine distribution. These principles -- assuring the safety of essential health care workforce, mitigating the impact from health disparities, and ensuring equity and transparency throughout the process -- informed the distribution models that serve as the basis for our approach today.

2) When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available to the Stanford Medicine community?

Based on latest reports from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Stanford Medicine is anticipating ample supply to vaccinate 35,000+ members of the workforce in the next few months.

3) Is the COVID-19 vaccine required?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not required, but strongly encouraged for all Stanford Medicine health care workers.

4) What has been done to plan for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to essential clinical workforce?

We are committed to protecting our essential workforce, ensuring their safety and wellness, and reducing community transmission. We have developed a thorough and thoughtful approach to distribute the vaccine in the coming months.

This planning process involved:
- Close coordination across and among clinical and operations teams throughout all Stanford Medicine entities
- Anticipation of implications to clinical and operational workflows
- Consideration of the potential temporary side effects of the vaccine

5) How will you implement this sequenced approach to vaccine allocation?

We are committed to providing urgent access to frontline healthcare workers and have mapped out a sequenced approach that is anticipated to start on December 18, 2020.

After deliberate planning, we have put in place an implementation plan to vaccinate approximately 35,000 health care workers in approximately 2-3 months. We are pursuing this with utmost urgency in order to stabilize the health of our workforce and support their ability to care for our community.
• Initial vaccination of high-risk front-line healthcare workers – December 18: Initial vaccination of front-line workers
• Expansion of HCW vaccinations – Week of December 24: We anticipate sufficient supply to vaccinate many more direct care and support health care workers with weekly distribution of vaccines from the manufacturers. We anticipate thousands of individuals will be able to receive vaccination over the ensuing weeks through February or March (inclusive of School of Medicine and advanced practice providers and students in clinical rotations)
• Completion of HCW vaccinations: We do not have a sense yet of how much supply we will get after the initial doses from Pfizer and Moderna, however, we are expecting additional supply for frontline workers who previously deferred or declined the vaccine and remote workers in order to fully vaccinate the workforce by spring.
• Community expansion of vaccinations – Anticipated in March or April 2021

6) Who will get the vaccine?

• Stanford Health Care, Stanford Children’s Health, Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare, University Healthcare Alliance (UHA), and Packard Children’s Health Alliance (PCHA) staff, travelling nurses, contractors, volunteers
• Medical staff and medical group members
• Medical students, physician assistant students, trainees, residents, fellows
• School of Medicine employees with patient-facing responsibilities or COVID-19 research
• In partnership with other delivery systems: community providers

After the initial phases of vaccinations, we anticipate being able to provide vaccines to remote-only workers and volunteers.

7) What efforts are underway to ensure the safety and wellness of our workforce?

We are committed to the safety of our health care workers and have been from the beginning of this pandemic. We welcome this conversation and believe the most important way to keep our health care workers safe is through vaccination and continued use of PPE and social-distancing protocols.

It is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to understand that it is necessary to continue adherence to ongoing mitigation approaches, even after the vaccine becomes available. We need to use all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, staying at least six feet away from others, washing hands often, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.
8) **Once I’m vaccinated, do I still need testing? Do I still need to wear a mask?**

There are multiple considerations under discussion that incorporate national, state and county guidance in the context of this evolving pandemic. We continue to recommend masking, social distancing, and testing as critical pillars of prevention for our workforce. As new information becomes available, we will update our community.

9) **Will the vaccine prevent me from getting infected?**

Vaccines alone will not be sufficient to address the pandemic. It is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

10) **Should those who have already had (or believe they had) COVID-19 and recovered, or who had positive COVID-19 antibody test, get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again; this is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes recommendations to CDC on how to best use COVID-19 vaccines; at this time CDC cannot advise on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine. (Source: CDC)

11) **How many injections are required to complete the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Those who choose to receive the vaccine should expect a total of two injections over a period of three to four weeks, depending on which vaccine they receive. Pfizer’s vaccine is 2 shots given 3 weeks apart; we anticipate getting a majority of our supply from Pfizer. The Moderna vaccine is a series of 2 injections given 4 weeks apart. *To achieve the COVID-19 vaccine’s full effectiveness, it is essential to obtain the full course of injections*
12) **What are the short-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

As with any vaccine, people can react differently. It’s important to know that even rare, severe side-effects will be temporary and should not dissuade vaccine recipients from completing their course of injections.

Many people who receive vaccines will have mild or no side effects. These may include:

- Low-grade fever
- Chills
- Soreness at the injection site
- Headache
- Slight fatigue

In rare cases, people may experience more serious side effects, which are defined as side effects that prevent daily activities. These uncommon, temporary but severe side effects may include:

- Immediate allergic reaction
- High fever
- Muscle pain
- Joint pain
- Nausea

These vaccines contain no active or killed virus particles. There is no chance the vaccine will cause COVID-19.

13) **What are the long-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Historically, the vast majority of complications in vaccines appear within 60 days of injection. In addition to the FDA, independent safety review scientific panels are working to confirm the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines. Because all COVID-19 vaccine research and clinical trials have been expedited over the last several months, there has not been an opportunity to gather extensive long-term research, including side effects. So far, most side effects have been mild and temporary.
14) If I’m feeling sick after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, how do I know if it’s side effects or just illness? Should I stay home from work?

Individuals who receive the COVID-19 vaccine should look for side effects 24-48 hours after injection. Most side effects are mild and temporary, but in rare cases, they may be severe. Vaccine recipients should stay home from work if their symptoms would make it difficult or impossible to do their job. **No one with a fever should come to work.**

15) How do I report if I have a problem or bad reaction after getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

At all Stanford Medicine locations, health care personnel receiving the vaccine should report side effects to Occupational Health Services. Our goal is to provide support through the series of injections to increase the likelihood that all who receive a first dose will complete the course through the final dose to achieve the highest possible efficacy of the vaccine. Vaccine recipients should know that, while possible side effects may be temporarily uncomfortable, the benefit of receiving the vaccine far outweighs any of the risks. As always, if you feel you need to seek care, contact your primary care physician.

If you have questions about Stanford Medicine’s COVID-19 vaccine program, please contact Occupational Health Services.
- Stanford Health Care/UHA, Stanford Children’s Health/PCHA: (650) 723-5922
- Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare: (925) 479-3700, after hours and weekends: (925) 580-0861

16) What ongoing precautions should COVID-19 vaccine recipients take?

It is essential for everyone, including those who have been vaccinated, to continue using all the tools available to help stop the spread of infection, including covering mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, staying at least 6 feet away from others, and following all guidance from State and County health officials.

17) Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnant or possibly pregnant women?

Pregnant individuals should consult with their obstetrician about receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. At this time, Stanford Medicine will not provide COVID-19 vaccinations to individuals who are pregnant or possibly pregnant. We will update our community if this guidance changes.