

## INFORMATION SHARED THROUGH HHSS:

**January 26, 2021 - from IRMC**

As of today, IRMC has limited vaccines available for the community. We continue to focus on frontline healthcare workers and are happy to announce we have begun to vaccinate those age 75+. We are following closely the guidance given to us by the PA Department of Health and CDC. We are hopeful to accommodate more community members and age groups in the coming days.

Here's what you should know:

If you meet the current criteria (healthcare worker or age 75+):

Please complete the vaccination interest form on our website.

You will receive an email alerting you if and when you are eligible to schedule your vaccine time. We are unable to accommodate walk-ins at our vaccination clinics at this time.

Note: Completing the form does not guarantee you will receive the vaccine at IRMC.

Is there a waiting list?

Yes. Please complete the vaccination interest form. We will adjust schedule availability as more vaccines arrive, and notify those next in line. Note: Completing the form does not guarantee you will receive the vaccine at IRMC.

Can I sign my parent/elderly relative up?

Yes. Please complete the vaccination interest form to sign them up, and include your name/contact info in the comment section.

How do I know what phase I am in?

Visit the PA Department of Health website.

Can I choose which vaccine I receive?

No. IRMC gets the vaccine from the PA Dept. of Health. At this time, IRMC only has the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

How can I volunteer?

As we expand the collaborative Indiana County-wide vaccination effort, we will be in need of extra volunteers. Roles include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, paramedics, physician assistants, or physicians who can vaccinate, as well as highly detail-oriented people willing to enter the required data into the state websites. Anyone willing to assist in the vaccination efforts, please email [info@indianarmc.org](mailto:info@indianarmc.org).

- You will not get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- Side effects of the vaccine are tolerable. As with many vaccines, fatigue, muscle/joint aches, headache, low-grade fever, and redness or pain at injection sites may occur. These usually occur several hours after the injection and go away within a day. Some experts feel this is a good sign that the body is developing an immune response.
- Two injections are required for vaccine effectiveness. For the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, a second injection is required 3 weeks after the initial dosage. It is important you get both shots to develop effective immunity.
- Receiving the vaccine does not immediately mean you can't still be infected with or transmit the virus. It is crucial that we continue to practice social distancing, wash our hands and wear masks whenever with others.
- The vaccines have shown 94-95% effectiveness in preventing COVID-19 in those who received both doses of the vaccine.

- Receiving the vaccine not only protects you, it also protects your neighbors, family, and the ones you love.

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