



FAQ COVID-19 vaccine requirement: Families as Partners volunteers

Updated: 8/19/2021 (2:30 p.m.)

Here are some answers to common questions about the COVID-19 vaccine requirement for Children's Minnesota Families as Partners volunteers.

Who is Children's Minnesota requiring to get a COVID-19 vaccination?

Children's Minnesota has joined a growing number of local and national health care organizations in requiring the COVID-19 vaccination for volunteers, employees, professional staff, contractors and students/learners.

When does the COVID-19 vaccination requirement go into effect at Children's Minnesota?

- **Nov. 1, 2021** is the deadline to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by the Nov. 1, 2021 deadline, you will not be able to volunteer at Children's Minnesota.
- You should plan to have your first dose by Oct. 1, 2021 to allow time to get your second dose by the Nov. 1, 2021 deadline.
- You are fully vaccinated two weeks following the second dose of a two-dose COVID vaccination (such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) OR two weeks after a single dose vaccination (such as Johnson and Johnson).

Where can I get a COVID vaccine?

There are several options to get a COVID-19 vaccination:

- Call or email Children's Minnesota Employee Health Services (EHS) at 952-992-5372 or employeehealth@childrensMN.org to schedule an appointment.
 - Minneapolis campus on Tuesdays from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - St. Paul campus on Thursdays from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- You can get your COVID-19 vaccination at local pharmacies in your community (Walgreens, CVS, etc.).
- Beginning Sept. 20, 2021 attend a Children's Minnesota Influenza Vaccine Clinic to get your COVID-19 vaccination and/or your influenza vaccination. [Click here for the 2021 vaccine clinic schedule](#). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is safe to receive the COVID vaccine at the same time as the influenza vaccine.
- You can also ask your primary healthcare provider for other options.



Everyone getting a COVID vaccination will need to stay for observation for 15 minutes after vaccination. Children's Minnesota is offering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (two doses needed). Any currently available COVID (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson) vaccine is acceptable to meet this vaccine requirement.

Where can I learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine?

You can find more information about the COVID-19 vaccine by reading the [FAQ COVID-19 vaccine](#).

How do I document my COVID-19 vaccination?

Please use a scanner to scan a copy of your COVID-19 vaccination card and save it on your computer. Then attach the image of your card in an email to Brian West, brian.west@childrensmn.org and Tessa Billman, tessa.billman@childrensmn.org. You will need to send a scan of your vaccine card to us even if you sent it to us before in order to obtain a vaccine clip for your Children's Minnesota ID. This will ensure we have a copy on file.

Why is Children's Minnesota requiring COVID-19 vaccinations?

The increased number of COVID-19 infections in the community, being driven by highly transmissible variants, is concerning to health care organizations. As the kid experts in the region, it is our collective duty to deliver the safest care possible to the kids and families we serve, and to protect kids in our communities against COVID.

- COVID vaccines are a safe and effective public health measure, proven to help prevent death and to reduce severe illness from COVID.
- There is currently no COVID vaccine approved for children younger than 12 years old, who make up a large portion of our population. By getting vaccinated against COVID we can help protect all kids, and their families, from becoming severely ill or from dying from COVID.
- COVID-19 vaccines help protect you and your family from becoming severely ill or dying from COVID.

If I volunteer remotely, do I need to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, all volunteers are required to get vaccinated against COVID-19, even if you are volunteering remotely. We are one Children's Minnesota. We all have a personal responsibility to protect the well-being of kids in our communities by being vaccinated to help prevent the spread of COVID.



What if I have had COVID-19? Will Children's accept documentation of a positive PCR test? Can antibodies be used as proof of immunity to COVID-19?

No. Immunity after COVID-19 infection is variable depending on the severity of COVID illness and is shorter lived. Immunity after COVID *vaccine* is consistently very robust and lasts longer than immunity after COVID infection. Vaccination offers long lasting protection against severe illness and death from COVID, and is recommended for people who have had COVID in the past.

Why is the COVID-19 vaccine required but not the influenza vaccination?

In deciding which vaccines to require, we have considered the transmissibility of the illness, the risk to patients or staff if they become ill, and the relative effectiveness of vaccines and other preventive measures. With the spread of the COVID Delta variant, universal vaccination of all staff appears to be the optimal way to balance those considerations and ensure patients and staff are protected. At this time, we will continue to encourage, but not require, seasonal influenza vaccine.

Why is the vaccine being required when it's still under a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) refers to the authority the FDA has to authorize use of medications and devices in response to public health emergencies and pandemics. The EUA expedited the availability of vaccines after they successfully demonstrated safety in phase II studies and efficacy in phase III studies. Rather than require the studies to conclude their full two-year observation period, the products were approved after demonstrating efficacy after at least six months of data. Continued on-going evaluation of the vaccines following the phased distribution to the public reiterated the safety profiles established in the phase II and III studies and clarified potential risks associated with very rare adverse events, including allergy to vaccine components, risk for clotting factors, and possible association to neurologic symptoms such as Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS). In addition to being very rare, these adverse events are known to and occur with greater frequency in individuals infected COVID-19 virus.

COVID remains an on-going threat to our community. There is evidence that vaccination can reduce the viral load and shorten the time of illness in those exposed to the virus, if not prevent development of illness completely.

Children's Minnesota is requiring COVID vaccination for employees both to protect the patients and families we care for, and to ensure that our staff are protected from developing severe disease and being unable to work. Just as we require staff to be vaccinated or demonstrate that they are protected against a variety of other vaccine preventable diseases (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Pertussis,



Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Varicella, tetanus, and, for some, Meningitis) so we added COVID-19 as the newest vaccine preventable disease as a component of health care workplace safety.