

## FAQS FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING COVID-19 VACCINE AT CHC/SEK

### **I heard CHC/SEK has COVID-19 vaccines, when can I get one?**

- We have received a limited number of vaccines to vaccinate all CHC/SEK employees.
- The federal government has designated the first round to healthcare workers and residents in nursing homes and senior care centers. Next week we will begin offering vaccines to healthcare workers in the community.
- We do not have a date when we will receive enough vaccine to begin distributing to the general public.

### **Why do healthcare workers get the vaccine first?**

Healthcare workers are at the greatest risk of exposure. The CDC's [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP), composed of medical and public health experts, [issued guidelines](#) for states to allocate the COVID-19 vaccines, giving health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities top priority.

### **How will I know when and where the vaccine is available?**

Depending on vaccine availability, CHC/SEK Public vaccine clinics will not start until after the first of the year. We will use social media, radio and newspaper ads announcing our vaccine events.

### **How much will the vaccine cost?**

COVID-19 vaccines will be available to anyone requesting them without cost.

### **Will I be required to take the COVID-19 vaccination?**

No, there is no requirement that one must take the vaccine, although it is highly recommended. Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

### **What vaccines are available?**

- At this point CHC/SEK has received the Moderna vaccine. The vaccination requires two injections days 28 days apart.

### **Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines**

Vaccinations are administered in the upper arm through injection. The FDA reports side effects might include pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, injection site swelling, injection site redness, nausea, vomiting and fever.

It's important to note that the aforementioned side effects are a sign of your immune system working and not a sign that the vaccine is unsafe and/or developing an infection of COVID-19.

It is important to note that the FDA does not currently advise individuals with life-threatening allergies to foods and/or medications to receive the vaccination at this time.

**How old does my child have to be to get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

- Moderna’s vaccine has been approved for individuals 18 and older. According to Moderna’s website, they have currently started clinical trials with patients in the 12 to 17-year range.

**How efficient is the vaccine?**

- Moderna reports a 94.1% vaccine efficacy against COVID-19 and 100% effectiveness against severe COVID-19.
- Due to the newness of the vaccine, it is impossible to determine what the overall effectiveness will be once the vaccine is distributed to the larger population including those that have preexisting conditions, work in high-risk fields with repeated exposure to COVID, and the elderly population. However, COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of severe COVID-19 disease.

