

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

Q1. Will vaccines be available at Hill AFB? When will they be available?

A1. First doses have been distributed to Hill's emergency services personnel, security forces, and medical and health care professionals. The vaccine will continue to be distributed on base as received. DoD initially expects limited quantity and a phased delivery of COVID-19 vaccine following FDA Emergency Use Authorization.

Q2. Who will be next to get the vaccine?

A2. Vaccination distribution prioritization will focus on those providing direct medical care, maintaining essential national security and installation functions, deploying forces, and those at the highest risk for developing severe illness from COVID-19, before other members of the DoD population.

Q3. I'm a retiree/spouse/dependent, can I get the vaccine at the Hill Clinic?

A3. Retirees and other qualified DoD beneficiaries will be able to receive the vaccine. This will occur once supply availability and the appropriate level of prioritization is reached. Notification will be made through public messaging at that time.

Q4. How do I sign up to get on the vaccination list?

A4. Once the appropriate prioritization level is reached, notification will be made through public messaging.

Q5. How will I know when it is my turn/how are notifications being made?

A5. Notification of vaccine's availability will be made through the chain of command, or through public messaging, once the appropriate prioritization level is reached.

Q6. Are you accepting walk-ins for the COVID-19 vaccine?

A6. No, walk-ins are not being accepted for the COVID-19 vaccine. The 75th Medical Group is providing vaccinations based on the DoD Population Schema. It lists the order in which vaccines will be distributed based on priority. This plan is based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Q7. Will the DoD require all service members to receive the vaccine?

A7. No. The vaccine is being offered on a voluntary basis. Priority populations are highly encouraged to receive the vaccine. When formally licensed by the FDA, the DoD may require a vaccine for military personnel or personnel in specific fields, as is the case for the influenza vaccine.

Q8. Which select Reserve and National Guard personnel will receive the vaccine?

A8. Selected Reserve personnel include drilling members of the Federal Reserve and National Guard. Selected Reserve personnel on orders for more than 30 days are included in the active component.

Q9. Will we still need to wear masks and practice physical distancing once a vaccine is available?

A9. Yes. The intent of the vaccine is to prevent the spread of COVID 19. We will still need to wear cloth face coverings and practice physical distancing to limit the spread of the virus. Additionally, we will not have enough vaccine initially to vaccinate everyone who wants the vaccine and COVID-19 pandemic risks will continue. We will continue to recommend wearing masks and practicing physical distancing, for everyone, until pandemic risk of COVID-19 is substantially reduced.

Q10. How important is it to get vaccinated when the vaccine becomes available?

A10. People who are offered the first-available vaccine are considered to be in groups that are most in need of COVID-19 protection. Vaccinated people will be protecting themselves, as well as their families and all people with whom they interact. Evaluation of the first-available vaccine will continue, even after its pre-licensure release. The release of other vaccines cannot be fully predicted, so people who are offered the first-available vaccine will be encouraged to receive this vaccine.

Q11: How long will protection last following vaccination?

A11. We do not know how long protection will last following vaccination but it will be critically important to measure long-term protection (at least two years) in the phase 3 trials and in other groups prioritized for early vaccination. We are still learning about the duration of protection following infection with COVID-19 and it is too early to tell how long protection will last.

Q12. Can someone get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

A12. No, it is not possible to get COVID-19 from vaccines. Vaccines against COVID-19 use inactivated virus, parts of the virus, or a gene from the virus. None of these can cause the coronavirus.

Q13. Should children get the vaccine?

A13. The current vaccine trials have not studied the safety and efficacy for children and manufactures are not currently asking the FDA for authorization to vaccinate children.

Q14. How does the vaccine work?

A14. Manufacturers have different science behind their vaccines. Most mimic COVID symptoms, allowing the body to build antibodies. You can find further information on the vaccine manufacturers' websites.

Q15. Will the vaccine require multiple shots?

A15. Yes. Depending on the type of vaccine received, there will be an initial shot followed three to four weeks later with a second shot. Vaccines from different manufacturers are NOT interchangeable; it is important that people receiving the COVID-19 vaccine return for their second shot at the appropriate time.

Q16. Will Tinker be offering vaccines to DoD contractors?

A16. COVID-19 vaccines may be offered to, and administered at DoD vaccination sites for contractors directly supporting the DoD on DoD installations when available and prioritization level is reached, subject to the terms of their contract.

Q17. Where can Hill personnel get more information on COVID-19 vaccines?

A17. The latest information on COVID-19 vaccines as well as the latest Health Protection Conditions, Declarations of Public Health Emergency, COVID testing information and a list of resources can be found on the Hill web page at <https://www.hill.af.mil/coronavirus/>.