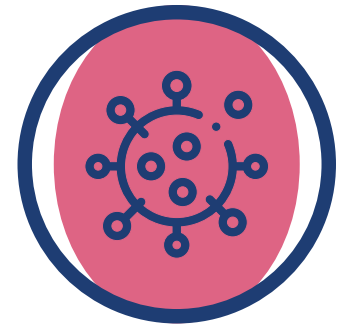# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) COVID-19 Vaccines

Below are common questions about COVID-19 vaccination and Eisner Health's COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

1. Why is vaccination important?

Vaccination is a safe and effective way to prevent disease. Vaccines save millions of lives each year. When we get vaccinated, we aren't just protecting ourselves, but also those around us.

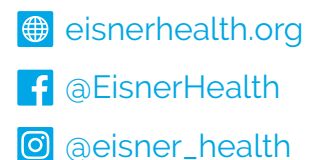### 2. How do vaccines protect communities?

When a person gets vaccinated, they are less likely to get a disease or pass the germ on to other people. When more people get vaccinated, there are fewer people left for a germ to infect so it is harder for the germ to spread. This is called community immunity or "herd immunity." Herd immunity is important because it protects people who can't get the vaccine, for example, because they are too young or are very sick.

3. How does a vaccine work?

Vaccines work by preparing the body's immune system to recognize and fight off germs. They reduce your risk of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defenses to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds. It:

• Detects the invading germ, such as a virus or bacteria.
• Makes antibodies. Antibodies are proteins produced naturally by the immune system to fight disease.
• Remembers the disease and how to fight it. If you are exposed to the germ after getting the vaccine, your immune system can quickly destroy it before you become sick.

Our immune systems are designed to remember. After we get one or more doses of a vaccine, we are protected against the disease for a period of time. This is what makes vaccines so effective. Instead of treating a disease after it happens, vaccines can prevent us from getting sick in the first place.

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4. Can you get COVID-19 from a vaccine?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines being developed in the United States have the virus that causes COVID-19 in them. Sometimes people get a fever or feel tired for a day or so after getting a vaccine. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity. You can learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work at this CDC website.

It usually takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. If a person got infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after they got a shot, they could still get COVID-19. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

5. Will getting the vaccine cause me to test positive on a COVID-19 test?

No. Vaccines won't cause you to test positive on a viral test (like the swab test) that looks for current COVID-19 infection. You may test positive on some antibody tests. This is because one of the ways that vaccines work is to teach your body to make antibodies. See the public health testing webpage to learn more about COVID-19 tests.

6. What COVID-19 vaccine does Eisner Health have?

Eisner Health has the Moderna vaccine, which is safe for anyone over the age of 18. After receiving your first vaccine, you will need a second vaccine sometime between 24 – 42 days after your first.

7. Will I have to pay to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. You will not be charged a fee at Eisner Health when you receive your COVID-19 vaccines. If you do have insurance, we will ask to see your insurance card at registration. People without health insurance can get COVID-19 vaccines at no cost. There are no out-of-pocket payments for anyone.

8. When can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine from Eisner Health?

There won't be enough for everyone right away. Plans have been made to spread these limited vaccines in a fair, ethical, and transparent way. Currently, LA Department of Public Health eligibility guidelines are:

· **January 2021:** Healthcare workers, people living in long-term care facilities (such as nursing homes), and seniors over the age of 65
· **March 1, 2021:** Those with careers in education, childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture.

Supplies throughout L.A. County will be limited in the beginning. The goal is for everyone to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities are available; this may take a few months. The next tier of eligible populations to receive the vaccine are those who have health conditions that make them higher in risk of mortality from COVID-19.

Eisner Health is working closely with state, county and city officials to ensure a steady supply of the COVID-19 vaccine for our patients and the community. We will update our website and inform patients of COVID-19 vaccination availability once we know more.

9. Do I need to continue wearing a mask, social distance and other precautions after being fully vaccinated?

Yes. Continuing to wear a mask, social distance, and washing your hands frequently is still recommended as experts don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. Experts also need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions.

10. If I have already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes, you do need the vaccine even if you have had COVID-19. We don't yet know how long you are protected after you have had COVID-19, so it is important to have the vaccine to strengthen your immunity.

11. Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I currently have COVID-19?

No. You cannot get the vaccine if you currently have COVID-19. If you do get COVID-19 between your first and second vaccine, your second shot may be delayed until you have completed your isolation period and symptoms have improved or resolved. Please speak to your provider if this happens to you. Once your symptoms have improved, you can get the vaccine.

In some cases, symptoms of COVID-19 can linger for months. If this applies to you, you should get the vaccine. You do not need to wait for these long-term symptoms to subside.

12. Should I get a flu shot?

Yes! It is likely that the viruses that cause influenza (flu) and COVID-19 will both be spreading this winter. A flu shot only protects you from the flu, but at least it means you won't run the risk of getting flu and COVID-19 at the same time. This can keep you from having a more severe illness. Getting a flu vaccine now is more important than ever. If you are likely to get the COVID-19 vaccine soon, ask your doctor about the best time to get the flu shot. This is because the two vaccines may have to be given several weeks apart.

13. Will there be enough vaccine for everyone?

There won't be enough for everyone right away. Plans have been made to spread these limited vaccines in a fair, ethical, and transparent way. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities are available; this may take a few months.

14. If I receive my first COVID-19 vaccine at Eisner Health, will I also receive my second vaccine at Eisner Health as well?

Yes. After you receive your first vaccine at Eisner Health, you will receive an email or phone call from a staff member at Eisner Health one to two weeks after your first shot to schedule your second vaccination.

We currently have two vaccination sites: our Downtown Olive Street location and Sherman Oaks location. You do not need to return to the same Eisner Health site you received your first shot. If for some reason Eisner Health isn't able to vaccinate you because we are waiting on additional vaccine vials, we will help you find an appropriate site for your second dose.

15. Why do I need to wait 15 minutes after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

After you receive both your vaccines, you must wait in our waiting area for 15 minutes for observation to ensure you do not have an allergic reaction to the vaccine. It is very rare to have an allergic reaction. If you have had an allergic reaction to a different vaccine in the past, you can still receive the COVID-19 vaccine, but your observation time may be extended. Please speak to your provider if you have any concerns.

16. Do I have to quarantine if I am exposed to COVID-19 even after I am fully vaccinated?

Yes. While the CDC did release guidance that people fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine, here in Los Angeles County, local officials have declared there is not enough evidence to support the CDC announcement and so quarantine guidelines remain in effect. You can find more information on quarantine guidelines here.