

Family First Primary Care COVID19 Vaccination Information

Due to the uncertainty of availability timeframe, our office is NOT currently maintaining a waitlist for vaccinations.

For additional information: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

The recent emergency use authorization for an effective COVID19 vaccine is exciting news. The data suggest that these vaccines appear to be approximately 95% effective and safe without evidence of severe side effects. The vaccines being distributed do not contain any live virus and cannot give the patient COVID19. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain a small amount of mRNA which stimulates our immune systems to make antibodies that protect us from infection and severe illness from COVID19. Based on the data demonstrated in large clinical trials, we are confident in the safety and efficacy of these vaccines and strongly recommend them to the general public once they become available.

We are still awaiting more information regarding the availability of both the Pfizer and Moderna COVID19 vaccines. North Carolina has a detailed 4-phased distribution plan based on level of risk. Link below. Currently all of the vaccines being received by the state are being distributed to hospital workers and nursing homes. (Phase 1A) The next phase will focus on patients and workers that have at least 2 high risk chronic conditions. (Phase 1B). At this point we are unable to order or apply to receive either vaccine, but we will apply once this is open to free standing clinics. It is likely that a large portion of the vaccine distribution will initially be done through hospitals, health departments and larger entities such as pharmacy chains that have the resources to administer and store large amounts of vaccine. However, it is possible moving forward, we may be involved in the 4-phased approach. We will obviously inform our patients if we do receive any vaccine, and will follow the state's prioritization schedule for the most at risk patients. In the meantime, if the vaccine becomes available to the general public at other locations such as the health department, pharmacies etc., we encourage our patients to get the vaccine through one of those sources when it becomes available to their population.

Adults of any age with the following conditions **are at increased risk** of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- [Cancer](#)
- [Chronic kidney disease](#)
- [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#)
- [Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant](#)
- [Obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²\)](#)
- [Severe Obesity \(BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²\)](#)
- [Sickle cell disease](#)
- [Type 2 diabetes mellitus](#)

The Family First Primary Care family