



COVID-19 Vaccinations Frequently Asked Questions

Starting April 5th, everyone over the age of 16 who lives, works or studies in Wisconsin is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Pierce County only has J&J and Moderna vaccines, and so we are only able to vaccinate people aged 18 or over, because those vaccines are only approved for people aged 18 or over. A number of providers in the region have Pfizer, which is approved for those who are 16 or older.

1. Who will Pierce County Public Health vaccinate currently?

Pierce County Public Health will vaccinate anyone aged 18 or over who lives, works or studies in Wisconsin.

2. How do I sign up for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment with Pierce County Public Health?

Pierce County Public Health is currently hosting clinics every week. Our appointments open for reservations at 8:30AM each Monday for the appointments that week. You can either make an appointment online by visiting <https://piercecountycovid19vaccine.as.me/> or you can call 1-844-684-1064, press option 4, Monday-Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

We cannot make appointments for future weeks at this time. This is because we don't know until late the week before how much vaccine we will receive for that week. If we made appointments in advance, we would have to cancel appointments if we didn't receive as much vaccine as we requested.

3. The appointments were full this week, and I was unable to get one. What should I do now?

We know this is frustrating. We cannot allow appointments to be scheduled more than one week in advance because we do not know for sure until the previous week how many vaccines we will get each week. If you qualify for a vaccine with us, please try again the following Monday for an appointment that week, or check with your doctor or pharmacist to see if they can vaccinate you.

4. How much does the vaccine cost?

The vaccine is free to recipients, regardless of where you get your vaccine or if you have insurance.

5. Can I come to a vaccination clinic without an appointment?

No. We open up as many appointments as we have vaccines. Walk-ins will not receive vaccines.

6. How long does the appointment take?

You should plan around 30 minutes for each dose. The paperwork and vaccine process takes around 15 minutes, and we will ask you to wait about 15 minutes after your vaccine for observation. An appointment for your second dose will be made while you wait.

7. How do I know when to come back for my second dose?

Moderna requires a second dose. J&J does not. An appointment for your second dose will be made at your first dose, if you received Moderna. If you will not be in the area 28 days from your first dose appointment, please do not get a vaccine from us.

8. Which type of vaccine will I get?

We don't know from one week to the next what combination of vaccines will we receive. If we have both J&J and Moderna available, you can select which brand you'd like when you make your appointment.

Whatever you receive for your first vaccine, you will receive the same vaccine for your second dose.

9. I have a history of severe allergic reactions. Should I still get the vaccine?

Unless you are allergic to one of the ingredients listed in the vaccine, you may be able to get the vaccine, but we would rather you get the vaccine at a hospital or primary care clinic. Please speak to your medical provider and get the vaccine through their office if you have a history of severe allergic reactions.

10. How do I know that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

The U.S. vaccine safety system works to make sure that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Safety has been a top priority as federal agencies work with vaccine manufacturers to develop and authorize a COVID-19 vaccine. Each vaccine must go through a rigorous developing review and authorization process before being made available to the public. For more information, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

11. Will I have side effects from the vaccine?

Some people will have side effects after receiving the vaccine. These side effects mean that your body is building protection against COVID-19. The side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Side effects may include arm pain and swelling, fever, chills, tiredness and headache. If you have side effects, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medication such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen. If your side effects are severe or they do not go away after a few days, please call your doctor.

12. After I receive my second dose, can I stop wearing a mask?

You should continue to wear your mask in public. In a private setting with only one other household who are vaccinated OR are unvaccinated and at low risk for COVID-19, you can forgo your mask. For more information about what you can do when fully vaccinated, see: [https://cms5.revize.com/revize/piercewi/Document_center/Department/Public%20Health/Publication%20and%20Data/Publication/Pierce%20\(3\).pdf](https://cms5.revize.com/revize/piercewi/Document_center/Department/Public%20Health/Publication%20and%20Data/Publication/Pierce%20(3).pdf)

13. Where is the clinic located and where should I park?

Typically, our clinics are located at the Seyforth building on the Pierce County Fairgrounds in Ellsworth. You can park near the Seyforth building, but please do not park on the grass. Come into the building to receive your vaccine.

Sometimes, we do mobile clinics, but the location will be in your confirmation email if an alternative location is being used.