

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

As more and more of the population are becoming vaccinated against COVID-19. A decision that parents will be making in the future is whether or not to vaccinate their children. At this time, only the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for those 16 and up. This may change as there are more studies done. To learn more about the different vaccines and how they work visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>

On March 11, 2021 the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) released that beginning March 29th, individuals age 16 and older with certain medical conditions will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. This group includes those individuals with medical conditions associated with an increased risk of severe illness from COVID 19. It is anticipated that with the increased availability of the vaccine that the general public will be eligible sometime in May.

The next eligibility group includes individuals age 16 and over with the following medical conditions:

- Asthma (moderate-to-severe)
- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Hypertension or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant, blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines
- Liver disease
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30-39 kg/m²)
- Overweight (BMI of 25-29 kg/m²)
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)
- Severe Obesity (BMI 40 kg/m² or more)
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)

Depending on vaccine supply, DHS anticipates that Wisconsin will be able to expand eligibility sometime in May to include all individuals age 16 and older. DHS will continue to monitor vaccination coverage statewide and partner with vaccine providers in order to provide an updated vaccination timeline for the general public.

Individuals who meet the above criteria can access vaccines through a wide variety of options. The Kenosha County Division of Health is a great resource for locating vaccine locations and has a list of local providers on their website.

<https://kenosha-county-covid-19-response-kenoshacounty.hub.arcgis.com/>

This week, the CDC and DHS also updated their guidance on fully vaccinated individuals. In summary:

- If you have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (received the second dose in a two-dose series, or one dose in a single-dose series) and were in close contact with someone who with COVID-19, you do not have to quarantine, if you meet ALL of the following criteria:
 - Your exposure to someone with COVID-19 happened at least two weeks after receiving the last dose of your vaccine series
 - You have not had any symptoms since your last close contact
- Continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after your last close contact. If you develop any symptoms of COVID-19, isolate from others, contact your healthcare provider, and get tested.

Complete information on the [recently released post-vaccination guidance](#) , can be found on the DHS website.

I anticipate that when we start the school year next year, we will likely still need to use many of the measures we did this year to control the virus (masking, social distancing, quarantining, illness policies, etc). I also anticipate that when we start school next year, there is a good possibility that some students will be vaccinated. If you do choose to vaccinate your child, please provide documentation of the immunization to the school nurse. This information could avoid your student from having to quarantine if exposed in their classroom.

In the meantime, it is important to double-down on ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 due to emerging strains of the virus. Masking up, staying physically distant, washing hands, and getting tested continue to be crucial tools for protecting ourselves and our communities against COVID-19.