

What to Expect With Vaccinations in Washoe County, Nevada

Most Frequently Asked Questions

The State of Nevada has designed a parallel process (lanes) to vaccinate our community based on risk factors in the workforce and risk factors in the general community. Local health districts are currently focused on individuals who need to be vaccinated based on their employment risks. Partnering community agencies including pharmacies and hospitals are serving our general population starting with those at higher risk for complications as defined by age and underlying conditions.

Q. I'm 70 or older, where can I get the vaccine?

The State of Nevada is coordinating with all community partners to vaccinate the general public based on age groups and underlying conditions. Starting the week of January 18 multiple community partners will start offering vaccinations specifically for individuals 70 years old or older. For the latest information, please visit www.covid19washoevaccine.com and download our 65+ Vaccination One Sheet or [sign up here](#) to receive weekly emails highlighting District Health and community events.

Q. Is Washoe County Health District also offering vaccinations for individuals who are 65 years or older?

Yes. Washoe County Health District will be offering vaccinations for individuals who are 70 years or older initially and will expand to 65 or older soon. If you are interested in signing up for a waiting list for 65 or older, please check back at www.covid19washoe.com to sign up to receive information on when you can be scheduled.

Common Questions

Q. Why should I get the coronavirus vaccine?

Vaccination is another tool in the toolbox for preventing the spread of COVID-19. It is an additional proactive tool, just like wearing a mask, washing your hands, covering your cough and staying home when you feel ill.

Q. When will I get the coronavirus vaccine?

The vaccine is being distributed locally by multiple community partners. Focusing in two parallel lanes, the vaccine is being distributed based on risk of contracting the virus in the workplace and risk of serious illness in the general population. Information on the community strategy is directed by the State of Nevada. For more information on the updated statewide strategy released January 11, 2021, please visit the state website at NVCovidFighter.org.

Q. Where can I get the vaccine through Washoe District Health?

Washoe District Health is providing free vaccines in the Washoe County community focused on employment. The Health District is distributing invitations to the employer groups that have a higher risk of contracting the illness and are within an essential function of our current infrastructure. Currently being vaccinated are public

safety, educators, care givers and health care support. For more information, please visit www.covid19washoevaccine.org.

Q. I live in another state or county, but work in Washoe County. Can I get a vaccine in Washoe County?

Yes, vaccinations are being provided in Washoe County based on place of employment.

Q. I know someone who was able to schedule a vaccine appointment through their MyChart account. I have a MyChart account with RENOWN, but I don't have a message yet?

Please work directly with RENOWN hospitals for information on MyChart and scheduling vaccinations as it becomes available.

Q. I don't have an email address or access to the internet, how do I schedule an appointment?

Please watch your local media for when your group is scheduled for vaccinations, and, which partnering community agency will be providing those vaccinations.

Q. I am veteran can I go to the VA Hospital?

Veterans can go to the VA Hospital and the VA Hospital will be contacting veterans.

Q. Can I just show up for a vaccination?

No, vaccinations are available through appointments. Washoe Health District does not provide drive up services for vaccinations.

Q. Will there be any cost to me for the vaccine?

Washoe County Health District will be providing the vaccine free of charge. There will be no cost of the vaccine from any provider, however, some may charge a nominal administration fee.

Q. Is the vaccine effective?

Current studies show an efficacy rate greater than 90% after 2 doses.

Q. If I get the coronavirus vaccine, do I still need to wear the mask?

Yes. CDC recommends that during the pandemic people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside your household, when in healthcare facilities, and when receiving any vaccine, including a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove a mask without assistance should not wear a mask but should consider an alternate like a face shield.

Q. If I have already had COVID-19 do I still need the vaccine?

There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again; this is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural
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immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. Until we have a vaccine available and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes recommendations to CDC on how to best use COVID-19 vaccines, CDC cannot comment on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Q. Can I get the vaccine if I am exposed and in quarantine?

No, if you or any one your household has been exposed to, diagnosed with, or has been placed in quarantine for COVID-19 in the past 14 days you should not receive the COVID vaccine at this time. Once you have completed your quarantine and are healthy, it then may be recommended for you to obtain a vaccine.

Q. Will children and pregnant women be eligible to receive the vaccine?

As with most vaccines, studies will need to be conducted in children and in pregnant women, but these studies are often done after the vaccine has been shown to work and be safe in healthy adults. ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) will make those determinations. Please work with your health care provider to discuss your options.

Q. Can I make it mandatory that my staff get the vaccine?

No, getting the vaccine is voluntary. An emergency use vaccine cannot be mandated

Q. Will my spouse and kids be given the vaccine at the same time that I am?

At this time, vaccinations will be provided to individuals based either by area of employment and the general population starting with age and underlying conditions. Families of individuals receiving the vaccine are not eligible to receive a vaccine based on being a family member alone.

Q. I have a young child, what ages will the vaccine be approved for?

The vaccination at this point is an adult vaccine, 16 and over or 18 and over (depending on the vaccine). Studies are being done regarding vaccinating kids as young as 12 years old.

Q. Can you give me a rough timeline of when my medical practices/pharmacies will receive the vaccine?

The vaccine will be available for medical practices/pharmacies sometime between December 2020 and March 2021. Priority will be given to medical practices/pharmacies to serve higher priority age groups and those with underlying medical conditions.

Q. I was recently tested for antibodies and have them. Is it still recommended that I get the vaccine?

We are awaiting ACIP recommendations on this, and will have more information when the recommendations come out (as of 12/7/20)

Q. Will this be an annual vaccination, like the flu shot?

We are awaiting ACIP recommendations on this, and will have more information when the recommendations come out (as of 12/7/20)

Q. I received my first vaccine at Washoe County, when and how do I sign up for my second dose?

You will receive a vaccination card at your first dose appointment. That will have the date of the second dose and the time of the appointment printed on the card. In addition, you will receive an automatic appointment reminder by email.

Q. Can I reschedule my second dose?

Due to limited availability of vaccines in our community, we are only rescheduling second doses in very limited circumstances.

Q. It's my turn to receive a vaccine, how do I schedule with Washoe District Health?

Washoe District Health is currently vaccinating our essential workforce and is working with the State of Nevada and local partners for the general public. Invitations to schedule your appointment are currently being distributed through employers via email. Please contact your local employer for additional information on scheduling an appointment.

Visit www.covid19washoevaccine.com for the latest information.

Resources:

CDC has FAQs here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Immunize Nevada has FAQ here <https://www.immunizenevada.org/covid-19-vaccine-planning>

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/index.html>

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