

# COVID Vaccine Information for MCC Students

## Where can I find official information about the COVID vaccine?

Midwestern Career College encourages our community members to rely on information from trusted sources, including state, city, and public health official websites.

CDC Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ  
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>

Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution  
<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-distribution>

City of Chicago COVID-19 Vaccine Information  
<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid19-vaccine/home.html>

Indiana State Vaccine Information and Planning  
<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/>

## Is the vaccine safe?

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible.

Over 52 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in the United States from December 14, 2020, through February 14, 2021.

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA).

Sources: [CDC Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#); [City of Chicago's FAQ on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine](#)

## Am I eligible to get the vaccine right now?

States and cities are distributing the vaccine in phases. In Illinois, we are currently in phase 1b. The community members that eligible for the vaccine in this phase are:

- Frontline essential workers in non-healthcare residential settings

- Residents 65 and older

This is in addition to the community members in phase 1a:

- Healthcare workers
- Long-term care and other residential healthcare facilities

Source: [Illinois Department of Public Health Vaccine Distribution](#)

### **Where can I get the vaccine?**

There are four ways Illinois residents can receive a COVID-19 vaccine:

1. Your health care provider
2. Your pharmacy (Walgreens, CVS, your grocery store pharmacy)
3. Your employer
4. Zocdoc.com

### **How do I sign up to get the vaccine?**

Currently, vaccination is available by appointment only for eligible individuals. The vaccine will be offered at no cost to all Illinois residents who want it, but patience is needed while vaccine quantities increase. Be aware that most provider office locations have been instructed to start vaccination of their current patients before opening up appointments to others.

To find a vaccination location near you, click here: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>

There are several ways to schedule an appointment:

1. Call your doctor
2. Sign up on pharmacy websites, including pharmacies at grocery stores.  
**CVS:** <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine>  
**Walgreens:** [https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19?ban=covid\\_vaccine\\_landing\\_schedule](https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19?ban=covid_vaccine_landing_schedule)  
**Jewel Osco:** <https://www.jewelosco.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html>  
**Mariano's:** <https://www.marianos.com/i/coronavirus-update/vaccine>
3. Contact the HR department at your employer to ask if they are offering the vaccine and how to set your appointment.
4. Sign up for an appointment at <http://zocdoc.com/vaccine>. Click here for [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about Zocdoc.

### **I do not have health insurance. Can I still get the vaccine?**

Yes, you can. The Illinois plan allows providers to charge an administration fee but states that it will not be passed on to those receiving the vaccine — even the uninsured.

If you are in Chicago, you can enroll with one of Chicago's many Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). You can download the flyer here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Source: [Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#)

### **I'm not a US citizen. Can I still get the vaccine?**

Yes. The Department of Homeland Security encourages all individuals, regardless of immigration status, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine once eligible under local distribution guidelines.

Source: [DHS Statement on Equal Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccine Distribution Sites](#)

### **Do I have to pay for the vaccine?**

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee.

Source: [CDC Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

### **How many shots of the COVID-19 vaccine will be needed?**

The currently authorized vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States require 2 shots to get the most protection:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) doses should be given 3 weeks (21 days) apart
- [Moderna](#) doses should be given 1 month (28 days) apart

You should **get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 1-month interval as possible**. However, there is no maximum interval between the first and second doses for either vaccine. You should **not** get the second dose earlier than the recommended interval.

Source: [CDC Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

### **Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others after I have gotten 2 doses of the vaccine?**

Yes. To protect yourself and others, follow these recommendations:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Experts are also looking at how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities. We also 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.

Source: [CDC Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

### **Does MCC require students and/or staff to get the COVID vaccine?**

Midwestern Career College encourages anyone eligible for the vaccine to make an appointment and get vaccinated. However, the college does not require its students or staff to get the COVID vaccine.

### **All information in this FAQ has come from the official sources listed below.**

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DHS Statement on Equal Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccine Distribution Sites  
<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/02/01/dhs-statement-equal-access-covid-19-vaccines-and-vaccine-distribution-sites>