



COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

Updated 2-24-2021

Henry County Public Health understands that there are a lot of questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. While we don't have all the answers right now, here are the answers to some frequently asked questions.

CAN EVERYONE GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE RIGHT NOW?

No. The vaccine is being distributed in phases based on guidelines from the Iowa Department of Public Health, who bases that on CDC recommendations and vaccine availability. Phase 1-A began December 22nd and includes health care providers and skilled nursing and long-term care facility residents. Phase 1-B began February 1st and includes seniors age 65 and older and others populations that are broken out into 5 tiers. As vaccine availability increases, vaccination guidelines will continue to expand to include more groups. Unfortunately, there is no set timeline on this yet. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as large quantities are available. However, a COVID-19 vaccine may not be available for young children until more studies are completed.

WHERE DO I GO WHEN I AM ELIGIBLE FOR THE VACCINE?

Most vaccines will be distributed through Public Health, although Hy-Vee and Walmart are also receiving a limited supply. Currently all 3 are scheduling on an appointment basis only. Public Health updates will be posted at HealthyHenryCounty.org/covid and Facebook.com/HealthyHenryCounty.

HOW CAN I GET PUT ON A WAITING LIST FOR THE VACCINE?

Seniors age 65 and older AND those eligible in Tier 1 of phase 1-B (first responders, PK-12 teachers, early childhood education, and childcare workers) can sign up to be on a waiting list. Call 319-385-0779 or email (preferred) publichealth@henrycountyiowa.us and leave your name, birthdate, phone #, zip code, and occupation if in Tier 1. We cannot return messages at this time. There are a lot of names on the list and we only receive a small amount of vaccine each week so it will take awhile to get to everyone. We will call and/or email you when we get to your name and are ready to schedule your appointment. We will make multiple attempts to reach you, so please don't call to check on your status, it only blocks the phone lines. Please do let us know if you receive your vaccine somewhere else so we can take you off the list.

DO I NEED TO WEAR A MASK AND AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHERS ONCE I HAVE RECEIVED THE VACCINE?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.