

# COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs

## Q: How do I get the vaccine?

**1. Determine whether you are included in the current vaccination phase.** You can also identify which vaccination phase you qualify for here: [Vaccine Phases by Population](https://www.kansasvaccine.gov). When the state recommends moving to a subsequent phase, announcements will be made through multiple channels (KS COVID Vaccine website: <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov>, Governor's press releases, local media). Please note that because of severe supply shortages, local health departments will make a determination on prioritized populations within the Statewide Phase, so it is important to also check with your Local Health Department about their planned implementation of the current Phase.

**2. Find a place that is offering vaccinations to the public.** Over time, the Federal Government will develop a "Vaccine Finder" tool which is not yet released. In the meantime, Kansas is developing a "Find my Vaccine" which will sit on the <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov> website. It is a map-based tool which will allow users to locate providers near them who are vaccinating the public with guidance on whether they have been recently allocated vaccine.

**3. Schedule your appointment with your local provider offering the vaccine**  
Kansas is developing a "Find my Vaccine" which will sit on the <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov> website. It is a map-based tool which will allow users to locate providers near them who are vaccinating the public with guidance on whether they have been recently allocated vaccine.

## Q: Who will be giving the vaccine? Can we just go to our local pharmacy to get it?

Not all healthcare providers are participating in vaccine administration but there are many different types of providers administering the vaccine, including:

- Public health clinics / your local public health department
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- Pharmacies
- Doctor's offices
- Safety net clinics
- Hospitals
- Other health centers

As the vaccine becomes available to more Kansans, a map will be added here to help you find a provider. This resource will be updated regularly as more providers are enrolled. If you are currently eligible and need help finding a provider before this map is available, please check the website of your local public health department or contact them directly (directory by county).

## Q: What will be the cost of the vaccine?

- The COVID-19 vaccine is free to all Kansans and no insurance is required.
- Healthcare facilities are permitted to charge an administration fee to administer the vaccine, but Kansans cannot be denied a vaccine if they cannot afford the administration fee or do not have insurance.

- If you are eligible for the vaccine in the current phase but are turned away because of your inability to pay, please contact KDHE (866-534-3463 / 866-KDHEINF or [covid-19@ks.gov](mailto:covid-19@ks.gov)). Alternatively, you may contact the Kansas Insurance Department's Consumer Assistance Division by phone (800-432-2484), by email ([kid.webcomplaints@ks.gov](mailto:kid.webcomplaints@ks.gov)), or file a complaint on their website (<https://insurance.kansas.gov>).

### **Q: How will I have to prove that I meet the requirements of the phase?**

- Providers have been encouraged to implement some form of patient sub-group verification (e.g., employer letters, age checks wherever easy and accessible, self-reported surveys or screening online or on-site).
- Please check your provider's screening requirements before going to your appointment. If you foresee any challenges to providing this type of identification, please contact the provider, your local public health department (directory by county) or KDHE (866-534-3463 / 866-KDHEINF or [covid-19@ks.gov](mailto:covid-19@ks.gov)).

### **Q: Who is prioritized to be vaccinated in Phase 2?**

Phase 2 includes:

1. persons aged 65+,
2. high-contact critical workers, and
3. congregate settings.

**High-contact critical workers** include but are not limited to:

- Firefighters, police officers, first responders, emergency dispatchers, correction officers
- Grocery store workers and food services
- K-12 and childcare workers, including teachers, custodians, drivers & other staff
- Food processing, including meat processing plants
- Large-scale aviation manufacturing plants
- Transportation workers
- Workers in the following industries, if they regularly need to be in high-risk settings to perform their duties:
  - o Retail, warehouses and sales outlets
  - o Agriculture
  - o Supply of critical services or materials for the COVID response (e.g. personal protective equipment (PPE))
    - o The U.S. Postal Service
    - o Department of Motor Vehicles

**Congregate settings** include but are not limited to:

- Homeless shelters and other homeless housing settings and dwelling places
- Congregate childcare institutions, adult and child protective services
- Emergency shelters or safe houses for victims of domestic violence
- Corrections facilities, including jails and juvenile justice facilities
- Behavioral Health institutions (including mental health institutions) and residential treatment centers
- Adult care homes, residents and staff in home plus facilities not covered in Phase 1
- Senior living homes
- Home care givers (paid or unpaid), personal care aides

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact your local public health department (directory by county) or KDHE (866-534-3463 / 866-KDHEINF or [covid-19@ks.gov](mailto:covid-19@ks.gov)). For additional information on the phases, please refer to the [Vaccine Prioritization Plan](#).

**Q: Why are universities not included as a Phase 2 population?**

- Although universities are not specifically included in Kansas Phase 2 (or CDC phase 1b), local public health departments may determine that it is appropriate to include them under Phase 2.
- For example, some university faculty or staff that fit under the critical worker criteria (workers providing critical services who are at a higher risk of being infected, because their jobs require consistent and close contact with a large number of individuals) and who are not able to work remotely, may qualify for Phase 2 as determined by their local public health department.

**Q: If a specific group or qualifier is not listed on the phases, how do we know where they fit?**

- For the latest information on vaccination phases and the prioritization plan, please refer to the Vaccine Prioritization Plan. This page will be updated as additional information becomes available.
- The prioritization plan accounts for all Kansans so if you do not qualify for an earlier phase based on your profession or medical condition, you would qualify for a later phase based on your age.

**Q: How will people know when we have moved into a new phase?**

- The decision to move to a new phase at the state level will be announced to the public through multiple channels (KS COVID Vaccine website, Governor's press releases, local media).
- However, your local public health department does have the flexibility to move to the next phase based on vaccine administration, expected patient demand, and available supply. Please consult your local public health department's website or contact them directly.

**Q: If someone is sick or running a low-grade fever, can they still get the vaccine?**

Patient care is very nuanced so it is difficult to provide clinical guidance online. The FDA advises telling your vaccination provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have any allergies
- have a fever
- have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner
- are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding
- have received another COVID-19 vaccine

Additionally, if you have previously been infected with COVID-19, vaccination is recommended but the CDC advises waiting 90 days after treatment for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal

antibodies or convalescent plasma. If you are currently in quarantine due to potential exposure to COVID-19, please wait 14 days after your exposure to get vaccinated to ensure that you do not have COVID-19.

**Q: Why does the vaccine rollout take so long?**

- National rollout of the vaccine has been slower than anticipated and the federal government has not delivered as many doses as originally stated across the country. There was also a lag in reporting between state and federal systems that made Kansas' early vaccine administration numbers appear lower than they actually were.
- Current vaccine distribution data shows Kansas performing in line with most of the other states. Kansas is continuously improving the vaccine distribution process and expects to achieve the Governor's goal of vaccinating all Kansans this year.
- To check the current status of the vaccine program in Kansas, there is a [dashboard](#) on the KS COVID Vaccine website.

**Q: Will KDHE be adding data to a dashboard about vaccine distribution?**

- Yes, there is a [dashboard](#) on the KS COVID Vaccine website with data on vaccine doses distributed and administered in Kansas. It is updated on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:30pm CT.