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# Mercy Iowa City

## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

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Mercy Iowa City expects to start receiving doses of the vaccine in the coming weeks as Johnson County Public Health leads the local allocation. We will not receive the Pfizer vaccine until we have the necessary freezer in January. Moderna's vaccine, which does not require the ultra-cold freezer, is planned for distribution to all counties "based on priority groups," according to the CDC; that priority focuses on long term care facilities and frontline health care workers to start.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### When can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

- A COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be available before the end of 2020. However, there won't be enough for everyone to get the vaccine right away. The first doses will go to people who have a high risk of getting the virus. This includes residents of nursing homes and frontline health care workers.

#### How will the COVID-19 vaccines work?

- The COVID-19 vaccine gives your immune system a preview of the coronavirus, so it learns how to stop it. It triggers antibodies in your blood to attack the virus' unique spike protein. (Did you know coronaviruses got their name because they have protein spikes that look like a crown?) Your immune system learns from the vaccine how to quickly recognize the actual virus and stop it from multiplying. The idea is to stop SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, from getting into cells, replicating itself and making you sick.

#### Are there any side effects with the vaccine?

- Safety is a top priority. Vaccine reactions or side effects are possible, as with all vaccines. Some of the side effects seen in the vaccine trials were fatigue, myalgia and headaches.

#### Mercy Iowa City is following recommendations from the CDC and IDPH network-wide to prioritize health care personnel to receive the vaccine as follows:

**Priority Phase 1a(i):** Health care personnel who provide direct patient care or are face-to-face with large numbers of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients.

**Priority Phase 1a(ii):** Health care personnel who provide direct patient care to or are face-to-face with large numbers of patients NOT suspected of having COVID-19. This includes all direct patient-care-facing roles and those interacting directly with patients including registration, transportation, dietary, etc.

**Priority Phase 1a(iii):** Other health care personnel providing essential services throughout the health care delivery system: health care personnel who handle infectious materials (e.g. environmental services, laboratory workers) who are not direct patient care facing and cannot work from home.

**Priority Phase 1a(iv):** All other health care personnel, including those who can currently work remotely.