

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

January 5, 2021

What should I know?

- Right now, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the vaccine only be offered to healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care facilities.
- The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.
- The vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19.
- The vaccination will be a safer way to help build protection than getting COVID-19.
- You will need two doses of the vaccination. After receiving it, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.
- Cost is not an obstacle to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The first COVID-19 vaccine is being used under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Many other vaccines are still being developed and tested.
- The vaccine is one of many important tools to help us stop this pandemic, but everyone (including those who are vaccinated) will need to continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

When can I expect to get the vaccine?

- There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, but supply will increase in the weeks and months to come.
- Coastal Medical has not yet been informed when we will receive vaccines. We will continue to provide updates as often as we get them.
- Coastal patients may have the opportunity to receive the vaccine at locations other than Coastal Medical offices. If you are eligible for the vaccine through a non-Coastal location, we encourage you receive it through one of those other community resources.
- Coastal Medical offices are preparing to receive, store and administer the COVID-19 vaccine. As soon as it becomes available, we will be ready to provide vaccine in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Health.
- The US Food and Drug Administration has authorized Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. The vaccine manufacturer began shipping vaccine to states on December 13. The vaccine has arrived in Rhode Island and hospitals have begun vaccinating people who are directly involved in the care of COVID-19 patients.