



COVID-19 VACCINE: Frequently Asked Questions

When will Grady receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

We expect to receive it when the first wave of vaccines is distributed nationwide. While we do not know the specific distribution date, we expect it will be in the coming days.

Which vaccine will Grady receive?

Initially, Grady will receive the Pfizer vaccine, and we are prepared with the proper cold storage to handle it. We may also receive the Moderna vaccine once it is available.

Who will be eligible to receive the vaccine?

Given the initial limited supply of vaccines, the Georgia Department of Public Health has prioritized distribution to frontline healthcare workers, first responders, EMS, and to long-term care facilities. At Grady, the health and safety of our staff is our highest priority. We will administer the vaccine for free to employees and caregivers in phases, prioritizing those who work in areas with the most exposure risk.

Will employees be required to take the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. The vaccine will be offered on a voluntary basis. Employees who are eligible for the vaccine according to the distribution guidelines may choose whether to receive it.

How effective is the Pfizer vaccine?

Studies have shown this vaccine to be 95 percent effective.

Does the vaccine contain the live virus?

No. Unlike traditional vaccines, the Pfizer vaccine is a messenger RNA vaccine - also called mRNA vaccine that teaches our cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us if the real virus enters our bodies. The vaccine effectively triggers our bodies to protect us from COVID-19.

Is the Pfizer vaccine safe?

Extensive clinical trials were conducted to evaluate the COVID-19 vaccine. No serious safety concerns have been reported.

How many doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine are required?

The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, administered 21 days apart.



Will Grady be providing the vaccine to the community?

Eventually. Because of limited availability and government distribution priorities, Grady will first vaccinate staff and caregivers. When more vaccine becomes available, Grady expects to provide the vaccine to our community. We will continue to keep our community updated throughout this process.

How much will the vaccine cost?

The vaccine will be provided to Grady employees and medical staff at no cost.

Will I need to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing after getting the vaccine?

Yes. The CDC recommends that everyone continue following established guidelines, including covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. The guidelines will remain in effect for the foreseeable future. That, combined with the vaccination, will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Before changing the recommendations, experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide, how many people get vaccinated, and how the virus is spreading in communities.

Do I still need to get vaccinated if I already had COVID-19 and recovered?

The CDC says there is not enough information available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. We are awaiting final CDC guidance on this matter, but the preliminary recommendation is to wait 90 days after COVID-19 infection to receive the vaccine.