

Frequently Asked Questions

1) I have not gotten my vaccine yet. How do I sign up to get on the BSD COVID-19 Vaccine Wait List?

Team members who still want to receive the first COVID-19 vaccine, should get their name on the [BSD Vaccination Wait List](#) ASAP. You can also use the QR code below to get your name on the BSD Wait List.



Team members who have received their first vaccine in February at the Illinois MetroBus facility should already be scheduled for their second vaccine in March. Please keep that appointment. It is important to get the second vaccine. You will need to bring your vaccination card so it can be updated as well as your photo ID and your employee badge to your second vaccine appointment at the Illinois MetroBus facility.

2) Which vaccine are we receiving?

We received the [Pfizer](#) vaccine so it will be administered for both the first and second doses.

3) Can I get my second dose at a BSD facility in Missouri since I work in Missouri?

No. The second doses are being administered by the East Side Health District through the State of Illinois, so you must return to the Illinois MetroBus facility at your scheduled time for your second dose in March.

4) Do I really have to drive all the way over to Illinois to get my vaccine through work?

Yes, currently you do. This vaccine could save your life or the life of a loved one, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor. The Illinois MetroBus facility is easy to get to because it is conveniently located right off Interstate 64 and Kingshighway in East St. Louis at 801 North 47th Street. If you prefer to take MetroLink to Illinois, hop off the train at the Washington Park Station and catch a MetroBus shuttle from the station to the Illinois MetroBus facility. The shuttles operate every 15 minutes. If you need any assistance with scheduling or transportation, please alert your supervisor. Our management team is empowered to ensure that all team members have the opportunity to access your vaccine on your scheduled date.

5) Will BSD make the vaccinations available at Missouri facilities?

At this time, we do not know if or when we will receive vaccines from the State of Missouri, so please do not miss any opportunities outside of BSD to be vaccinated against the coronavirus in either Missouri or Illinois.

6) Can I just wait to receive a vaccine later this spring or summer?

If you choose to wait to be vaccinated, we don't know when you will have the opportunity to access a vaccine. We know that for the foreseeable future demand for vaccines will far outpace supply. Please don't wait.

7) What's in it for me?

In addition to the major health benefit of protecting yourself and others around you from the coronavirus, when you get first vaccination, you will receive a \$25 gift card. After your second vaccination, you will be awarded one additional day of vacation. This time must be scheduled through your supervisor.

8) If I already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. [Click here](#) for more information.

9) Can you feel confident that COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

Yes. To date, the vaccines have been tested on tens of thousands of people and have passed safety requirements in Phase I, Phase II and Phase III trials. As an additional layer of checks and balances, an external advisory board made up of medical and research professionals using additional public health data have reviewed final COVID-19 vaccine data and recommended the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines be made available for emergency use. America's best medical and research professionals have been working for years on coronavirus vaccines for SARS and MERS. SARS and MERS are different than COVID-19, but belong to the coronavirus family. The lessons learned through those developments are being applied today. Specifically, the effort to develop a COVID-19 vaccine began months ago. For more information, [click here](#).

10) Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines (or others currently in development) contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This makes it impossible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine. The vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. For more information, [click here](#).

11) What are the possible side effects?

Side effects are a normal sign that your body is building protection. Among the individuals who participated in the Pfizer clinical trials, 8.8% reported they experienced a reaction they considered to interfere with their daily activity. The most common side effects were fatigue (4.2%), headache (2.4%), muscle pain (1.8%), chills (1.7%), and injection site pain (1.4%). Of note, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first shot. For more information, [click here](#).

12) Will I still have to wear my mask after receiving COVID-19 vaccine?

All BSD team members will be required to continue to follow BSD mask guidelines. As more and more Americans are vaccinated, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says to follow guidance issued by individual employers.

On March 8, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its first set of [recommendations/guidelines](#) on how fully vaccinated people can safely visit with other people who are fully vaccinated and with other people who are not vaccinated. The CDC says everyone – even those who are vaccinated – should continue with all mitigation strategies when in public settings. Click the link above for additional information from the CDC.

13) Will team members have to get two shots to be protected from COVID-19?

Yes. In order to receive the full immunity benefits from vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna, it is required to take two doses of the same shot three or four weeks apart. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires one dose.

14) What do I do if I'm experiencing serious side effects after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

Contact your primary care physician.

15) How much does it cost to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine is free to all U.S. citizens, so you won't have to pay anything.

16) What if I receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, but then miss the clinic for the second dose? How do I finish the vaccine series?

If you cannot get your second Pfizer vaccination dose at the 21-day mark, you should still go ahead and get your second dose as soon as possible thereafter.

17) Will I still need to quarantine if I am exposed to someone who has tested positive?

If you meet all of the following criteria, you are not required to quarantine. They include:

- Being fully vaccinated, meaning it has been two or more weeks since you've received the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.
- You remain asymptomatic since exposure.

18) Can I still be a COVID carrier following the immunization of both doses?

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the answer is most likely no. Vaccines have always decreased transmission. The clinical trials for the vaccines were not designed to test for asymptomatic infection, but there is every biological reason in the world to believe that they will reduce asymptomatic transmission. The types of antibodies that are stimulated block viral infection in the nose. No viral load in the nose translates to no transmission.

19) Am I a risk to others who haven't received the vaccine yet?

No. Like any other vaccination, we get inoculated to protect not just ourselves, but also the people who we live and work with.

20) If I get the COVID-19 vaccine will it impact my ability to donate plasma?

If you were COVID-19 positive prior to getting your COVID-19 vaccination, you may still be able to donate convalescent plasma. On Jan. 15, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration updated its guidance regarding convalescent plasma donor eligibility related to those who receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The new guidance states that individuals who had COVID-19 symptoms and received a confirmed COVID-19 diagnostic test prior to vaccination, have fully recovered from symptoms of the virus within the last six months and meet other donation eligibility criteria may be able to donate convalescent plasma to help those still battling the virus. This is to ensure that COVID-19 convalescent plasma collected from donors contains sufficient antibodies directly related to their immune response to COVID-19 infection.

21) What if I have other questions about the vaccine?

You can email wellness@bistatedev.org or call 314-982-1400 ext. 2264 or 314-923-3070.