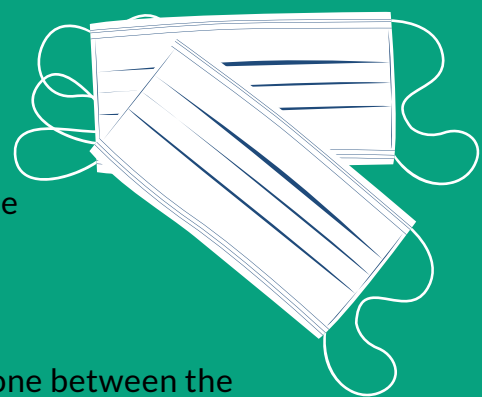


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

The Mississippi Economic Council and the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, working with the Mississippi State Department of Health, have developed a list of frequently asked questions to assist employers in providing COVID-19 vaccinations to employees.

Q WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TO QUALIFY?

A The Mississippi Department of Health is currently administering vaccinations based on age and health condition. MSDH is asking employers to encourage eligible employees to sign up to receive the vaccination.



Q WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A Currently, anyone over the age of 65 is eligible; also, anyone between the ages of 16 and 65 with a chronic health condition. Among these are cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), heart conditions, obesity, and diabetes. For complete list of high risk categories go to:
https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html#eligible

Q WHERE CAN SOMEONE WHO IS ELIGIBLE GET THE VACCINE?

A There are drive-through vaccination sites across the state and local healthcare providers have received limited quantities of the vaccine. Appointments are required for those eligible to receive the vaccine.



Q HOW CAN EMPLOYEES MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?

A Appointments can be made at <https://covidvaccine.umc.edu/>. If you are unable to schedule an appointment online you can call the Mississippi COVID-19 Hotline for assistance. The number is 877-978-6453. Since appointments fill up quickly, you are encouraged to check back often.

To find local clinics providing vaccine, please visit:
https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,22816,420,976.html

Q WILL EMPLOYERS BE ABLE TO ADMINISTER THE VACCINE ON SITE?

A The on-site option will be available, but there are several steps that need to be taken.

- Employers are encouraged to establish clinical partnerships.
- If partnerships haven't already been established to administer the vaccine, employers are encouraged to use pre-existing relationships, such as the organization that provides flu shots to employees. If there is not a pre-existing relationship, reach out to local clinics and pharmacies.
- Due to limited supply of the vaccine, employers should work with the local partner to determine when vaccinations could take place for eligible employees.
- If the local partner is able to provide on-site vaccinations, employers should have a pre-determined list of eligible employees who will receive the vaccine.
- Employers should develop a process for vaccinating employees on a small scale now, so that everything is in place when the quantity of vaccines increase.

Q WHAT QUANTITY OF VACCINES ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO LOCAL HEALTH PROVIDERS?

A According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, the quantity available to each participating local health provider in the state is highly variable and unpredictable. With the limited number, it is important for employers to establish the clinical partnerships now, as the limited number of vaccines are also being made available to the general population.

MSDH recognizes business and industry participation is vitally important in helping increase the number of vaccinations given, but requesting large volumes for employers would overwhelm the system.

Q WILL ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE?

A While the priority is currently based on age and health conditions, the department is expecting to add additional categories in the future. The likely order would be first responders and teachers, followed by essential workers.



Q IS THERE AN ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY?

A The availability of vaccines is expected to increase in order to include these categories in a month to six weeks.