Guide to Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine for Waiver Participants

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine can help you avoid getting COVID-19 or keep you from getting very sick if you do. The Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) wants 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) participants, caregivers, and providers to know there are options for where to get vaccinated and support in getting vaccinated.

When can I get vaccinated?

Now! People age 12 and up can get a COVID-19 vaccine. Here are a few important things to know about the vaccine.

- The COVID-19 vaccine can keep you from getting COVID-19. There is a small chance you could still get COVID-19, but if you do, you are less likely to get very sick or end up in the hospital.
- There are three kinds of COVID-19 vaccines: the Pfizer vaccine, the Moderna vaccine, and the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. The **Pfizer** and **Moderna** vaccines take **two shots** to work fully. The **Johnson and Johnson** vaccine takes **one shot** to work fully.
- If you get a two-shot vaccine, you are protected two weeks after the second shot. If you get the one-shot vaccine, you are protected two weeks after getting the shot. This is called being **fully vaccinated**.
- You might not feel well for a day or two after you receive your vaccination. This is normal.
- Once you are **fully vaccinated**, you can stop wearing your mask in some situations. Please follow the latest Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance on masking.

If you have questions about the vaccine and your specific health conditions(s), talk to your primary care doctor to see what they recommend.
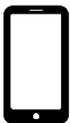
Where can I get vaccinated?

There are thousands of places in Kentucky where you can get vaccinated including:

- Your local health department.
- Your local pharmacy.
- Some clinics or hospitals.
- Store pharmacies like Walgreens, Walmart, or Kroger.

You have several options for getting a vaccine appointment.

Online: Go to vaccines.gov/search and type in your zip code. You can ask your case manager/support broker/service advisor, a caregiver, a family member, or a friend to help you.

By Phone: You can text your zip code to 438829 (English) or 822862 (Spanish) to receive a list of three vaccine locations near you or call (855) 598-2246 for help scheduling an appointment.

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Keep in mind that **it takes two doses for certain COVID-19 vaccines to start working fully.** This means you may have to go to the vaccine location you choose two different times to get a shot, depending on the type of COVID-19 vaccine you receive. You can choose what type of vaccine you want when you search for an appointment. When you get your vaccine, you will receive a card that tells you which vaccine you received.

What resources are available to help me get vaccinated?

- **Talk to your primary doctor** if you have questions about the vaccine. The CDC recommends people with certain conditions get a third dose of the vaccine. Your doctor can tell you what is recommended for you.
- **Talk to your family, caregivers, case manager/support broker/service advisor, or person-centered planning team** if you have questions on where or how to get vaccinated.
- **The state of Kentucky COVID-19 hotline** can answer general questions about the vaccine. You can call the hotline at (800) 722-5725 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
- The federal government requires the vaccine to be offered at **no charge to you**, however, your insurance may be billed to cover the cost.
- **If you need a ride to a vaccination site,** transportation agencies across the state are offering free rides.
  - View the list of Kentucky transportation agencies providing free public transport to COVID vaccine sites. Keep in mind you must wear a mask on public transportation.

Where can I learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has lots of information about the COVID-19 vaccine. DMS has included a few links below you might find helpful.

Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccines that Require Two Shots

COVID-19 Booster Shots

What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19

CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Website