

## City of Baltimore Employee FAQs - Continuity of Government Vaccine Prioritization

Below are FAQs about the City's Continuity of Government vaccine prioritization process.

### **1) How quickly will I be able to receive the vaccine?**

The prioritization of employees is based off of the risk of the employee catching COVID-19 and the impact their absence would have on essential services while they were recovering. We are unable to give an exact time as the City receives very few doses of the immunization at any given time. However, the higher the risk, the faster a person will receive an immunization.

### **2) Is there any way to get the vaccine from somewhere else?**

Yes. Employees may request a letter from their human resources representatives that states you are a critical government employee. This letter will allow you to schedule at an appointment at one of the mass vaccine clinics. Information on how to schedule an appointment at clinics across the state can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>

### **3) How does the prioritization system work?**

The Vaccine Prioritization Working Group developed a system that considered the personal risk of severe outcomes because of your job function as well as age and any underlying conditions as well as the criticality in your role within City operations. The system ranks people higher who are at greater risk or have a job critical to the City's ability to provide life safety services and basic infrastructure (e.x. water and wastewater personnel). The risks are based on CDC and Maryland State Health Department guidance.

### **4) How will I know when I should report to the clinic for my immunization?**

The Baltimore City Health Department will contact you and schedule your appointment. They will, also, provide you with information on where to go and what you need to bring with you. At the very least, this will include your driver's license/identification and City employee identification. Insurance information is not required to get this vaccine and it is provided free of charge.

### **5) If I have any questions or concerns, who should I contact?**

If you have a health related concern, you should contact your primary healthcare provider. If you need help accessing or filling out the questionnaire, please contact your supervisor or human resources representative.

### **6) Why is the City only getting a small amount of immunization doses?**

The City receives doses of the vaccine from the State who receive the vaccinations from the federal government. The State must split the amount it's given amongst each county and the City. As manufacturing is sped up, the City hopes to see an increase of immunization doses.

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### **7) What if I can't log into the questionnaire?**

If you require assistance with the questionnaire, including needing to use a computer, having the information translated, or any other service, please see your human resources representative.

### **8) What if I can't get to the clinic during my shift?**

If you have issues relating to scheduling your immunization, please bring them up with the Health Department representative who contacted you about your scheduling. If you require further assistance, please contact your supervisor or human resources representative who can help arrange for you to have off in order to get your vaccination.

### **9) Is there leave I can use so I can get my immunization?**

Yes, the City allows three hours of administrative leave for both times you are scheduled to receive a dose of the immunization (some vaccine requires two doses about 30 days apart). Employees must provide proof of vaccination in order for Administrative Leave request to be approved. Approved forms of proof include copies of: vaccination card, email confirmation, text message confirmation, or completed certification form issued by the Office of the Labor Commissioner.

### **10) I heard that people have a bad reaction to the immunization. What happens if I feel sick the day after my immunization?**

The most commonly reported side effects were pain or redness at the injection site, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, fevers/chills, or joint pain. Most of these side effects occurred within 1-2 days following vaccination and were mild to moderate in severity and lasted 1-2 days. Side effects were more common following the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose in the case of the immunizations with a two dose schedule. If you require time off due to feeling ill, please consult your human resources representative.

### **11) What type of vaccine will I receive?**

BCHD vaccine supplies are limited and the Department will use any of the three [vaccines](#) that are available to them at the time of the City Employee Clinic. It is important to note that all three vaccines have high efficacy in preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death as a result of contracting COVID-19.

### **12) Are the vaccines safe?**

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met FDA's rigorous scientific standards for the safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA). For additional information: [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)