



COVID-19 Vaccine Inquiries

ARMC Operator Talking Points

1.6.21

Statement provided by Corporate Public Relations for all acute care facilities:

Thank you for inquiring, the hospital is currently following the federal guidelines to vaccinate front line healthcare workers first. The initial, limited quantity of vaccinations is being administered to doctors, nurses and other hospital associates and Phase 1A mission critical workers, as outlined by SCDHEC.

We are not able to vaccinate the general public at this time.

We will continue to follow the governmental guidelines and will provide updates when available.

Has Aiken Regional received the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Aiken Regional Medical Centers has received an allocation of the new Pfizer vaccine for COVID-19.

Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Because the initial supply of the new vaccines is limited, we are administering the vaccine to our front-line healthcare workers and other mission-critical workers, as directed by SCDHEC.

When will you get the vaccine for patients?

Because the initial supply of the vaccine is limited world-wide, we do not know when we will receive the vaccine for patients. We are currently offering the vaccine to our front-line healthcare workers and other mission-critical workers, as directed by SCDHEC.

When will you offer the vaccine to our community?

The first group to be vaccinated are all front-line healthcare workers and other mission-critical workers, as directed by SCDHEC. Vaccines will be available to the general population in the months ahead at area vaccination clinics, still to be determined. For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

What do they cost? Are they covered by insurance?

The U.S. Government is currently covering the cost of the vaccination. However, this may evolve in the months ahead. For more information, visit [cdc.gov/covidvaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/covidvaccine)

What are the side effects?

Please visit the CDC website for complete vaccine information, visit [cdc.gov/covidvaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/covidvaccine)

For questions from other non-UHS frontline healthcare workers/Phase 1A mission-critical workers:

Thank you for inquiring, the hospital is currently following federal and state guidelines to vaccinate front line healthcare workers and other mission-critical workers as outlined by SCDHEC, as directed by SCDHEC.

If you are a non-affiliated healthcare provider's office or non-critical worker in the 1A priority group as outlined by SCDHEC, you will need to register through your employer. Once registered, you will then be able to schedule an appointment with one of our vaccine clinics.

For further questions, please email AikenCOVID@uhsinc.com

Who can receive the vaccine right now?

Phase 1a mission-critical workers include:

- Anesthesiology assistants, registered cardiovascular invasive specialists, and operating room staff
- Athletic Trainers
- American Sign Language (ASL) and other interpreters in healthcare facilities
- Autopsy room staff, coroners, embalmers, and funeral home staff at risk of exposure to bodily fluids
- Dentists and dental hygienists and technicians
- Dietary and food services staff in healthcare facilities
- Environmental services staff in healthcare facilities
- Home health and hospice workers
- Hospital transport personnel
- Laboratory personnel and phlebotomists
- Licensed dietitians
- Medical assistants
- Medical first responders (paid and volunteer): EMS; fire department and law enforcement personnel who provide emergency medical care
- Nurses, nurse practitioners, and nurse's aides/ assistants
- Opticians and optometrists and assistants/ technicians
- Persons providing medical care in correctional facilities and correctional officers
- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- Physical and occupational therapists and assistants
- Physicians, including medical house staff (i.e., interns, residents, fellows), and physician assistants
- Podiatrists
- Public health healthcare workers who are frequently interacting with persons with potential COVID-19 infection
- Radiology technicians
- Respiratory care practitioners, such as respiratory therapists
- Speech language pathologists and assistants and audiologists
- Students and interns of the above categories

For comments

Thanks for sharing your concern. Aiken Regional follows all protocols and CDC regulations related to

administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. If you have questions, please send them to AikenCOVID@uhsinc.com

COPY that is currently placed on the top of the Health Alert page on our website:

Aiken Regional Medical Centers has enrolled as a provider in the U.S. Federal Vaccination Program, which designates us as a distribution point for the new COVID-19 vaccines. We have established a vaccination clinic per CDC guidelines and are pleased to confirm that we have received initial quantities. As directed by the CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), we are administering the vaccine first to our front-line healthcare workers, then to the next priority groups per the national guidelines.

While the initial supply of the new vaccines will be limited, it is undeniably encouraging news that these new vaccines will help in society's fight against the pandemic. Vaccines will be available to the general population in months ahead at area vaccination clinics still to be determined. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19>