

Please read the information below regarding the Covid 19 Vaccine
Please do not call our office, refer to our website and Facebook page as we will keep those updated.

This is communication that the Riley County Health Department has issued:

We've been getting a lot of questions about coronavirus vaccines and when they will be available for the public. We put together a list of common questions we're getting below. We hope this helps! If you still have questions, please email vaccine@rileycountyks.gov.

1. How will I be notified when it's time to get the vaccine?

We will publicize information in as many forms as possible when we know we will have vaccinations available for the public. We expect vaccines to be available to the general public sometime in the Spring. We will use traditional tv media, newspaper, social media, and emergency alerts through Everbridge. You can sign up for Everbridge here: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612434#/signup>

To make sure you don't miss any important updates from our Facebook page go to —> Riley County Health Department

2. When will vaccines be available for the general public?

We believe vaccines may be available sometime in the spring - but we do not know for sure. We receive our vaccines from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The KDHE says they believe vaccines will initially be available in very limited doses -- but will scale up in production rapidly, allowing for enough supply to vaccinate all.

3. Do we go through our Doctor's Office or is Riley County Health Department organizing the rollout?

Right now, you cannot go to your doctor's office or the Riley County Health Department to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Some doctor's offices may have COVID-19 vaccines in the future, and others may not initially. Vaccines are expected to remain in limited quantities for several months and will be distributed as they are available through the strategic prioritization list.

4. Should I call you or email you to ask to be put on a list for the vaccine?

No. Please do not call or email asking to be added to a list because there is not one! If in the future when we have reached a phase that requires public input or data collection, we would publicize the need for this if there is one. Right now, there is no need as vaccines are not available to the general public.

→ Phase 1:

- * Hospitals and Long-term care facilities
- * Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- * Health Department Staff Most at Risk of Catching or Spreading the Virus (swab site/vaccination site workers)
- * Urgent Care Services

→ Phase 2:

- * Healthcare, first responders, and critical infrastructure
 - * Priority 1 - Primary Care Offices and Respiratory Therapy
 - * Priority 2: Surgical and Radiological
 - * Priority 3: Physical Therapy
 - * Priority 4: Optometrist and Dental Offices
 - * Priority 5: Pediatric, Chiropractic, and other licensed medical professionals
- * K-12 Education (teachers, bus drivers, staff members)
- * Licensed Child Care providers and preschools, RCHD home visitors
- * Frontline Behavioral Health and Social Services
- * Public Transportation

5. I have underlying health conditions, can I be vaccinated early?

Yes — but not yet! To help protect our most vulnerable citizens, we are working to include those 65 and older and those with high medical risks regardless of age in later phases (after Phase 1 & 2 but prior to the general public).

6. Do I need to make an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Not at this time. If you are included in Phase 1 & 2, our Clinic Supervisor will be working with your organization to get you the information you need to ensure you receive your vaccine. Since vaccines are not available to the general public at this time, we are not taking appointments for coronavirus vaccines.

7. Can children be vaccinated for COVID-19?

At this time, the vaccine is authorized for individuals 16 years and older. Clinical trials did not initially include children and more study is needed to determine effectiveness for children under the age of 16.

8. What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The common side effects are soreness near the injection site, malaise, fatigue, or headache. It is important to note that these symptoms are immune responses and signs that your body is reacting appropriately.

9. Do people who get the vaccine still have to wear masks?

Yes. The mask order is still in effect in Riley County as well as the City of Manhattan.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that during the pandemic people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside your household. Social distance and good hand hygiene should also continue.