



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates

### COVID-19 Vaccine Information

#### General Information

#### What information is available regarding COVID vaccines in the state of Texas / at Texas A&M University?

SHS is now providing COVID-19 vaccines for TAMU students, faculty and staff. Those who are eligible must book **online**. Spaces are limited and SHS will offer more vaccination opportunities as we confirm our vaccine allocation each week.

Once your vaccination appointment is scheduled, SHS recommends that you fill out the appropriate **vaccination form** prior to your appointment in order to minimize your wait time. This form will also be available at the vaccination site if you are unable to fill it out in advance.

#### Does TAMU require the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The COVID-19 vaccination is not required for students, faculty or staff. This voluntary vaccine is available to those who choose to receive it. SHS follows state and local health guidelines related to who is recommended to receive the vaccine.
- It is highly encouraged to speak with your primary care provider prior to scheduling an appointment to receive the vaccine, as every individual's health care needs differ. During your appointment at our vaccination site, healthcare professionals will be administering the vaccines and available to answer any questions. Prior to the appointment, all individuals will fill out vaccine questionnaire which will be reviewed by staff. If at any time there may be a concern regarding an individual receiving the vaccine, it will be discussed with the individual during the appointment.

#### What are side effects of receiving the vaccine?

- Common side effects include:
  - On the arm where you got the shot: pain, redness and swelling
  - Throughout the rest of the body: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and nausea

#### What if I have an adverse reaction to the vaccine?

- If you have symptoms outside of the common ones mentioned or that last more than 3 days, then contact your primary care physician and report your reaction to: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>



### What should I do after I receive the vaccine?

- It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. You should keep using all the tools available to protect yourself and others until you are fully vaccinated.

### If I did not receive my first dose Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with SHS, can I obtain my second dose at the SHS vaccination site?

- It is highly recommended that you receive both doses of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the same vaccination site. Your second dose will automatically be allocated to the vaccination site where you received your first dose. If you are unable to receive your second dose at the original site due to extenuating circumstances and are eligible to receive the vaccine at the SHS vaccination site, please call Patient Services at (979) 458-8310.

### Can I get a booster shot or additional dose at SHS?

- SHS is now providing COVID-19 booster shots based on CDC [booster eligibility](#). You can schedule a booster online through our Patient Portal at <https://tx.ag/COVIDvaccine>.

### How can I protect myself if I choose to not receive the vaccine?

- According to the CDC, there are a number of ways you can help slow the spread of COVID-19:
  - Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth to protect yourself and others.
  - Stay six feet apart from others who don't live with you.
  - Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

## Appointments

### How can I get the vaccine?

- Appointments are currently required for the vaccine and can be scheduled online through our Patient Portal at <https://tx.ag/COVIDvaccine>.

### What should I bring to my vaccination appointment?

- Individuals should bring their TAMU ID, health insurance information, and vaccination form (listed under "COVID Vaccination Forms") to their appointment. To expedite your appointment, you are encouraged to bring a completed copy of the vaccination form to your appointment and upload your insurance information to the Patient Portal in advance.



**If I receive my first dose of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with SHS, do I need to schedule an appointment to receive the second dose?**

- No – after you receive your first dose at the SHS vaccination site, staff members will schedule a day/time for your second dose based on the recommended time frame between the two doses and your personal schedule. If you are unsure regarding the details of your second appointment, please visit the [Patient Portal](#) and view the Appointments tab. Your upcoming appointment will be listed there. Contact Patient Services at (979) 458-8310 if you need further assistance or do not see your second immunization appointment listed.

**Cost**

**Is there a cost to receive the vaccine?**

- There is no charge for the COVID-19 vaccine itself. However, SHS will charge an administration fee to students, faculty and staff to cover the cost of SHS staff administering the vaccine. It is highly recommended that students bring their health insurance information to their appointment so the administration fee can be filed to insurance. Faculty and staff are required to bring their insurance information to their appointment. For students that do not have health insurance, or for charges that are not covered by insurance for student patients, Texas A&M CARES Act funding will cover the cost of the COVID vaccine administration (i.e., no cost to the student). Find detailed cost information below:

**Cost Information (effective 03/08/2021):**

- **Faculty/Staff:** While there is no charge for the COVID vaccine, SHS will charge a \$25 administration fee\* that will be filed to your insurance provider. Please contact your health insurance provider for more information.
- **Students:** While there is no charge for the COVID vaccine, SHS will charge a \$15 administration fee\* that will be filed to your insurance provider. For charges not covered by insurance and for uninsured patients, Texas A&M CARES Act funding will cover the COVID vaccine administration fee (i.e., no cost to you).

\*The COVID vaccine administration fee covers the cost for SHS staff to administer the vaccine. There is no cost to students, faculty or staff for the COVID vaccine itself. Any cost not covered by insurance will be paid for by Texas A&M CARES Act funding.