

☒ **For Your Information**

December 15, 2020

This message is for all Bozeman Health employees, providers, and medical staff from Incident Command.

SARS-CoV-2 mRNA Vaccine Prioritization in Wave 1A

Here's what's happening...

We are thrilled to be starting SARS-CoV-2 vaccination for Wave 1A prioritization today. As a reminder, an Immunization Task Force workgroup including our medical technical specialists, infection prevention, nurse leadership, and ambulatory leaders have collaborated to identify 975 employees by job code and department to receive the first allocation of vaccines at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital (BHDH).

These vaccines have undergone rigorous pre-approval processes centered on safety. Bozeman Health continues to be proud to have partnered with Pfizer/BioNTech to participate in Phase III clinical trials that got us to the point of administration today. During the Phase III clinical trials of the vaccines, the efficacy showed close to 95%. Based on the Phase III trials, the mRNA vaccines were both safe and effective, with the most common side effect being pain at the injection site.

By getting vaccinated, healthcare providers not only protect their patients and themselves, but they also lead by example in the communities they serve. It is important to note that COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests. Attached for your review are documents that outline vaccine information, safety, and efficacy.

Big Sky Medical Center (BSMC) anticipates receiving an allocation of the Moderna vaccine targeted for delivery to critical access hospitals sometime in December. By having BSMC take advantage of the critical access hospital-specific allocation, we will ultimately secure more vaccines for our health system and employees. Employees at Hillcrest Senior Living Birchwood have been included in the CVS allocation for long-term care employees. We are working to confirm the same for Aspen Pointe but the workgroup has reserved several doses for them as well.

The Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital departments included in Wave 1A are (in alphabetical order):

- Anesthesiologists
- b2 UrgentCare Main Street
- Belgrade Clinic Urgent Care
- Cath lab
- Cardiology Sonographers
- Community Geriatric House Calls team (Nurse practitioners)
- COVID-19 lab staff
- Emergency Department
- Employee Health
- ENT physicians
- Environmental Services
- Family Birth Center
- General surgeons
- House supervisors
- Imaging Services
- Infectious Disease
- Inpatient PT/OT/SP
- Intensive Care Unit
- Interventional Radiologists
- Labor & Delivery
- Medical Floor and Respiratory Care Unit
- NICU/Nursery
- Nurse Educators
- OR
- Orthopedic Surgeons

- Pathology
- Pediatric Hospitalists
- Pharmacy
- Phlebotomy
- Pulmonology
- Research/Infusion-MAB
- Respiratory Therapy—Inpatient
- Specimen Collectors
- SPD
- Surgical Floor
- Urologists
- Viral Triage Clinic
- Women's Specialists

Employees identified as eligible to receive the vaccine in Wave 1A must meet the following criteria:

- Employee consents to receiving the vaccine
- Employee is currently on the department schedule and is working consistent hours
- Employee does not have a pending termination or LOA
- Employee will be available to and agree to receive the booster in 21 days (+/- 2 days)

Employees may defer receiving the vaccine if they are in Wave 1A and may receive it in a later allocation if so desired. Employees cannot defer their vaccination to give it to another employee.

Employees who participated in the Pfizer Vaccine Trial through Bozeman Health Clinical Research should contact the study team at 406-414-4475 or modonoghue@bozemanhealth.org to discuss your vaccination options before you are vaccinated through Bozeman Health.

Protection from COVID-19 is not immediate. It is important to note that those employees who receive the vaccine in Wave 1A are not considered protected against COVID-19 until one to two weeks after receiving the second dose. Continuing to adhere to infection prevention measures of social distancing, wearing a mask in public and proper PPE in work environments, and proper hand washing and respiratory hygiene remains critical as we move through the winter months and through vaccination waves.

We expect more communication from our state and federal governments in the coming days and weeks on Wave 2 allocations, and when the vaccine will start to be available for the general public.

Here's what you need to do...

All employees should review the criteria and the attached PDFs. If you are an employee in Wave 1A, your leader will communicate with you on scheduling your vaccination

Here's why...

Keeping our employees, patients, and community safe remains our number one priority and having a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 helps us realize that goal. We understand the interest surrounding COVID-19 vaccination and will keep the health system apprised of updates as they become available.

Questions or comments? Contact IncidentCommand@bozemanhealth.org.