

We've been getting many 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!

**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.

**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.

**Why did you say you received vaccines, but I can't have one yet?**

At the Health Department, we received 240 doses and have given all of those within seven days. The very small amount of vaccines we have received were given to (Phase 1) Healthcare Providers, EMS Staff, Health Department Staff.

**Do we go through our Doctor's Office, or is the County Health Department organizing the rollout?**

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

**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.

**What is the plan?**

We continue to work each week to determine how to distribute the vaccines to fit our community's needs best. Below are the current phases we are working on per guidance from KDHE. We hope to be finished vaccinating those in Phase 1 near the end of January. We do not know when Phase 2 will begin because we do not know when additional shipments of the vaccine will be distributed to Leavenworth County. As soon as we know, when vaccines will be available to the public, we will publicize that information widely and often.

**Phase 1:**

- \* Hospitals
- \* Long-term care facilities
- \* Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- \* Health Department Staff
- \* Urgent Care Services

**Phase 2:**

- \* Healthcare, first responders, and critical infrastructure
- \* K-12 Education (teachers, bus drivers, staff members)
- \* Licensed Child Care providers and preschools, RCHD home visitors
- \* Public Transportation

**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).

**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 Manager 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. If you believe your organization is health care and is not being contacted, a representative from your organization can reach out to the Health Department.

**Where will the shots be administered?**

We are working on this right now. Since we received our first small shipment of the vaccines in December 2020, our planning committee has practiced drive-through and walk-in clinics to train personnel who will be involved in conducting clinics when vaccines are more widely available. As soon as we know, when vaccines are available to the public, we will share information on when and where the vaccine-clinics will be held.

**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.

## Expected Vaccine Availability By Group

Population Group	Very Limited Availability (Winter)	Limited Availability (Mid-Late Winter)	Increased Availability (Spring)	Generally Available (Summer)	
Hospitals/Urgent Care	✓	✓	✓	✓	Information and groups may be updated based upon federal and state guidance.
Long Term Care Facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	
EMS/Frontline Public Health Workers	✓	✓	✓	✓	
First Responders		✓	✓	✓	Availability will be dependent upon supply and when local distribution can occur.
Some public in critical infrastructure		✓	✓	✓	Further details of these breakdowns will be available in the future.
Teachers, school staff, child-care workers		✓	✓	✓	
Individuals at high risk for adverse health and 65+		✓	✓	✓	
All other adults			✓	✓	
Children 16+				✓	