

COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs

Updated 3/4/2021

Butte County Specific Vaccine Q&A

Where is the best place to look for information about upcoming clinics?

- Butte County Public Health COVID Vaccine website: www.ButteCounty.net/COVIDvaccine
- Butte County Public Health Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ButteCountyPublicHealth
- Local news stations

When will you open up more first dose clinics?

This will be determined by the State. As soon as we are allocated more vaccine, we and our partners, will schedule more first dose clinics. The State notifies us of our allocation one week in advance. As always, we will make these announcements on our website, Facebook page, and through local news media outlets.

I live in Butte County and am eligible to receive vaccine. Will I be notified?

Residents who signed up to receive a notification from Public Health will receive one. Notifications have already been sent to persons 65+. Residents should stay informed about upcoming community vaccine clinics through:

- Butte County Public Health COVID Vaccine website
- Butte County Public Health Facebook page
- Local news stations

Where and when will the Johnson & Johnson vaccine be given in Butte County?

The Emergency Use Authorization for the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine was issued to Janssen Biotech Inc., a Janssen Pharmaceutical Company of Johnson & Johnson last week by the FDA. The Janssen vaccine may be included in Butte County's allocation in late March.

I completed the registration link on your website, does this give me a vaccine appointment?

No, it was ONLY a tool so Public Health staff could notify people when they are eligible to schedule an appointment.

I completed the registration link on your website but have not been notified. What should I do?

Residents who have previously registered will continue to receive an e-mail notification when they are eligible to get the COVID vaccination. Calling the COVID Call Center will not get you an appointment sooner.

I completed the registration link on your website – does that give me priority?

No, it was ONLY a tool so Public Health staff could notify people when they are eligible to schedule an appointment. If someone learns they are eligible to schedule an appointment from the local media,

social media or via email because they registered they can all go to the online scheduling program and schedule themselves an appointment.

Are there future plans for additional large-scale first dose clinics like the one at Meriam Park?

Yes. There will be more first dose community clinics scheduled in locations throughout the county. Currently, there are clinics scheduled for March 8-11 in Chico at Meriam Park.

Information and a link to book your vaccine will be posted on the COVID vaccine webpage, on Facebook and through the local media.

If I call the COVID-19 Call Center can they schedule my appointment?

No. Calling the COVID Call Center will not get you an appointment any sooner.

Additionally, the State has announced more changes for local health departments coming soon – they will soon require the use of their scheduling platform, MyTurn for booking vaccine appointments. Once this goes into effect, BCPH will have to change from the current online scheduling system to MyTurn.

I see the link on your website to schedule my vaccine but all the slots are full. What should I do?

If all the slots are full we ask that you continue to be patient. We can only schedule clinics if we have doses of the vaccine to offer. Clinics are announced as soon as they are scheduled by the vaccine providers – Enloe, Orchard, and Oroville Hospitals. BCPH announces open clinics through the local news, on social media and on the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine website.

Who can be vaccinated now and who will be vaccinated next?

As a reminder, we are following the State's tiered and phased approach. Please visit our website to learn more about the State's guidelines. We are currently inviting those 65+ for vaccine. Next in line are the childcare and agriculture sectors. Please note that the 65+ population in our county is over 50,000 people. So it will take some time to move through this category. The state estimates that there will be enough supply by Summer 2021 to offer vaccine to everyone who wants it.

When will you start vaccinating people who work in Agriculture, Food and Childcare?

We do not have a timeline for moving into additional priority sectors for several reasons:

- We do not know how long it will take to finish vaccinating the 65+ group.
- We have not been allocated vaccines for additional sectors yet.
- The State has announced vaccine priority for persons at high risk for COVID complications.

Are agriculture and food separate priority groups? With agriculture eligible for vaccination before food?

No, Agriculture and Food are one sector. There is a list of sub-sectors eligible in the Food & Ag Sector listed on the COVID vaccine webpage. To learn more about the Agriculture and Food sector please visit: covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/

Does the Agriculture and Food group include grocery store and restaurant employees?

Yes.

If I work in a restaurant in one county and live in another. Where should I be vaccinated?

You will likely be vaccinated in the county that you work. We have not finished the 65+ group yet and are in the planning phases for the Agriculture and Food sectors.

When we reach the food sector, will signups be through workplaces?

It depends. Public Health has already sent invitations directly to some groups within the Food and Ag sector. In other cases, some Community Clinics will allow for those in the Food and Ag sector to book directly.

Come March 15th, will anyone with an underlying health condition get vaccinated?

No, March 15th is the date the State has announced for the beginning of prioritization for this group.

The State guidance indicates that healthcare providers will determine individual eligibility - at this time, we have more questions than answers about how this will work and will keep you posted as we learn more. Lastly, vaccination is based on allocated supply.

I have an underlying condition. When can I make my appointment?

March 15th is the date the State has announced for the beginning of prioritization for those with underlying conditions.

How will older adults (65+) with or without underlying health conditions know when they can get vaccinated and how to schedule the appointment?

Individuals 65+ are currently being invited to vaccine clinics in Butte County. Clinics are announced as soon as they are scheduled by the vaccine providers – Enloe, Orchard, and Oroville Hospitals.

BCPH announces open clinics through the local news, on social media and on the PH COVID Vaccine website. Please use the 'Schedule Vaccination' button on the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine homepage to schedule your appointment online.

I qualify for one of the groups to get vaccinated in one of the checked boxes, but have not been notified as to where I should get my vaccine.

If you qualify to get the COVID vaccination in Phase 1a (all tiers) and believe you may have been missed, you can notify Public Health by clicking the ["You missed me"](#) link on the BCPH COVID Vaccine webpage.

How will people who had their first vaccine get their second dose?

It depends on where you receive the first dose.

If an individual receives their first dose through the Enloe clinic they will need to schedule a second dose appointment when the second dose clinics open up for scheduling. They should stay informed through the local media, PH website and social media. Once Public Health announces clinics for the second dose only, you will need to schedule your vaccine appointment online.

If individuals receive their first dose at Oroville Hospital, they are immediately booked for their second dose.

Additionally, there is updated guidance from the CDC that states the first dose does not "expire." Even if a person gets the second dose later than the recommended timeframe, they should not repeat the whole course - just get the second when they can.

CDC's updated guidance was revised to allow for second dose administration up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first if it is not feasible to adhere to the recommended interval. CDC is not advocating for people to delay getting their second dose, but the data from clinical trials support this range.

[I work in one county and live in another. Where should I be vaccinated?](#)

Except for the education sector, you will likely get vaccinated in the county in which you live based on age. Talk with your employer first about vaccine eligibility.

Teachers and staff should be vaccinated at the school district in which they work. For example, if you live in Butte County but are a teacher in Glenn County, you will be vaccinated at a GUSD vaccine clinic.

[How do day care providers get notified- many of them are self-employed?](#)

Day cares are required to be licensed by the state, even in-home day cares. Public Health has access to this list of licensed day care providers in Butte County and will be able to contact them when their place in line for the vaccine is ready.

[Is transportation to the vaccine clinic in Meriam Park available?](#)

Transportation is available through the B-Line's Paratransit service, which offers door-to-door rides for persons 70 and older. An application must be completed in advance of the first ride. Applications can be requested over the phone, in-person, or downloaded from the internet. A one-way ride on the Paratransit is \$3.50.

- Contact B-Line Paratransit: 530-809-4614 (option 1)
- Download the B-Line Paratransit Dial-a-Ride application: tinyurl.com/ButteParatransit

[Where will I go to get the vaccine once it is available?](#)

It depends on how you become eligible, where you live, vaccine supply, and clinic availability. BCPH announces open clinics through the local news, on social media and on the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine website.

[How often are you going to announce clinics and when?](#)

At this time, we do not have a timeline. Scheduling clinics depends on how many doses that the State allocates to Butte County each week. BCPH announces open clinics through the local news, on social media and on the PH COVID Vaccine website.

[How many vaccine doses have been administered and how many are you administering per week?](#)

You can find this information on the COVID-19 dashboard on the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 homepage.

[Will there be drive-thru or walk-in vaccine clinics similar to the flu shot?](#)

As the supply of vaccine increases more community vaccine clinics will be made available. These may include walk-in and drive-thru.

Will doctor's offices have vaccine to give their patients?

It's possible, but uncertain at this time. This is dependent on the State's new agreement with Blue Shield, the Third Party Administrator. As more information becomes available we will share it with the public.

Will people get to choose which vaccine they receive?

No. Vaccine preference is not available, however, you can choose NOT to receive the vaccine at the clinic. Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccine have been reviewed by scientists and vaccine safety review groups as safe and effective.

I am a frontline essential worker in Phase 1a and believe I was missed.

If you are a frontline essential worker in Phase 1a and have not been invited from Butte County Public Health or your employer, please use the "YouMissedMe" link on the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage.

I am a caregiver and believe I was missed.

If you are a primary caregiver and believe you were missed, please use the "YouMissedMe" link on the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage.

I was invited but lost my invitation or missed my appointment. Can I still get the vaccine?

If you missed your appointment, please use the contact information in your original invitation to reschedule.

If you lost your invitation, please use the "YouMissedMe" link on the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage.

I am an individual - how will I know when it is my turn for vaccine and how will I be invited?

BCPH announces open clinics through the local news, on social media and on the PH COVID Vaccine website.

Will Butte County get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine if it is approved?

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine will move through the approval process just like Moderna and Pfizer, which includes:

- Review by the FDA and Emergency Use Authorization granted or denied.
- Review by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup.

Once approved, Butte County will likely be offered an allocation of Johnson & Johnson.

Are you looking for non-medical volunteers to help at the vaccination clinics? If so how do we sign up?

Yes! We will need volunteers to help with the vaccination clinics. Please sign up with [Disaster Healthcare Volunteers](#). You can sign up using that website even if you are not a medical or healthcare professional.

I registered our business as critical manufacturing in January for our staff to receive vaccines. Is this still a category or should I tell everyone to sign up on their own?

The State's vaccine plan does not currently prioritize sectors past the phase and tier we are currently in, Phase 1b Tier 1.

Therefore, unless your business falls into one of the prioritized sectors in Phase 1a (Tier 1-3) or Phase 1b Tier1, employees will need to stay informed about upcoming age-based vaccination clinics.

What to know pre and post vaccination

Do I need to quarantine after getting fully vaccinated?

Per the guidance released on February 15, 2021 from CDPH, vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow current CDPH quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

What will it cost to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are available at no cost, but they are only available to eligible individuals.

If vaccines are coming, do I still have to wear a mask, keep a distance, and avoid gatherings?

Yes. We all need to do our part to stay safe while we wait for vaccines to be widely available, and for a sufficient portion of the population to be vaccinated. Our county, like everyone else, will receive a limited supply to start. More will come over time. It may take many months before everyone in Butte County who wants a vaccine has gotten one. This means we all need to work together to keep our risk of COVID-19 low. We can do that by protecting ourselves and others by wearing face masks, keeping our distance, and not gathering in groups.

Do I still need to wear a mask after I get vaccinated?

Yes. This is because the vaccine prevents illness but not infection. The vaccine will prevent you from getting sick, but there is the potential you can still transmit the virus to other people and those people may not be vaccinated yet and can still get sick. Studies are currently underway to determine if the vaccine also stops the transmission. Until we have the results of those studies and the CDC makes recommendation to the CDPH, everyone should continue to wear a face mask.

Will I be required to get tested for COVID-19 before getting vaccinated?

No.

I already had COVID, do I still need the vaccine?

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before. At this time, we do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works.

General Vaccination Information

What is a realistic timeline for when the vaccine will be available to the general population?

The California Department of Public Health expects to have enough supplies to vaccinate most Californians by summer 2021.

When will there be a vaccine available for children?

Currently, [two vaccines](#) are authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19: Pfizer-BioNTech (16 years and older) and Moderna (18 years and older). Multiple COVID-19 vaccines are also still under development. Large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials are in progress or being planned for two additional COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as it relates to a new vaccine?

An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is a mechanism to facilitate the availability and use of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. Once submitted, FDA will evaluate an EUA request and determine whether the relevant statutory criteria are met, taking into account the totality of the scientific evidence about the vaccine that is available to FDA. [Learn more about EUA.](#)

How do COVID-19 vaccines work?

COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. Different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection, but with all types of vaccines, the body is left with a supply of “memory” in our white blood cells that will remember how to fight that virus in the future.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to make and use all the germ-fighting tools needed to get over the infection after vaccination. Therefore, it is possible that a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

Sometimes after vaccination, the process of building immunity can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.

Medical Related Questions

How effective are the available vaccines against the new variance strains of COVID?

Multiple SARS-CoV-2 variants are circulating globally. So far, early studies suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines recognize these variants and vaccine efficacy remains the same. Scientists are working to learn more about these variants to better understand how easily they might be transmitted and the effectiveness of currently authorized vaccines against them.

I have an underlying condition and am 60. Am I eligible for vaccine?

Not at this time, there is not enough vaccine available at this time to cover everyone 65 and older and those younger than 65 with underlying conditions. The State is planning when and how to have younger

people with underlying conditions included in the vaccination plan. What we do know is that when that happens it will be very strict criteria regarding underlying conditions.

[I have underlying conditions. Why am I not being prioritized for vaccine sooner?](#)

Butte County Public Health continues to follow the State's phased vaccine distribution approach. While there has been discussion in the media about changes to the State's prioritization, no official changes have been made.

[What is considered an underlying or pre-existing condition that puts you at higher risk for COVID-19?](#)

Adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. Severe illness from COVID-19 is defined as hospitalization, admission to the ICU, intubation or mechanical ventilation, or death. For more information please visit this [CDC webpage](#). Adults of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD – Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Down syndrome
- Heart conditions – Heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies
- Weakened immune system from solid organ transplant
- Severe obesity BMI > 40
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes

[Should I wait to get my second dose if I am symptomatic?](#)

Yes. If a person is symptomatic with Influenza-like symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 at a time when they are normally scheduled to receive their second dose (21 or 28 days Pfizer/ Moderna) they should be delayed 10 days or until the individual is asymptomatic.

[If I already had COVID-19 and recovered do I still need to get vaccinated?](#)

Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. If you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Experts do not yet know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called "natural immunity," varies from person to person. It is rare for someone who has had COVID-19 to get infected again. It also is uncommon for people who do get COVID-19 again to get it within 90 days of when they recovered from their first infection. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have more data on how well the vaccines work.

What symptoms can we expect with the first or second dose of the vaccine?

You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may feel like the flu and affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. On the arm where you got the shot you may experience the following symptoms: Tenderness, Redness, Swelling. Other possible side effects include: Fever, Chills, Tiredness, Headache.

Vaccine Prioritization and Distribution

Who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine right now?

Visit the Butte County Public Health COVID-19 vaccine webpage where you will find a graphic that illustrates which phase and tier is currently eligible. Categories with a CHECK MARK indicate groups that the vaccine is currently available to. Unchecked boxes indicates groups that do not have access to the vaccine yet.

Will the vaccine be required for healthcare workers or residents of Long Term Care facilities?

No. Consent is required for vaccine to be administered. This is a provision of the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) safety fact sheet. Further, administration cannot be required for any pharmaceutical approved under an EUA (i.e. “right to refuse”).

- [EUA Fact Sheet](#)
- [FDA Emergency Use Authorization of Medical Products](#) – Guidance for Industry and Other Stakeholders.

Where do Foster parents land in the vaccine phases?

Our best guess at this time, is that Foster parents will be in the same group as any other parent (general population) unless the parent qualifies by age, profession or health status to get it sooner.

Can my family and I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

The guidelines on who gets the vaccine first come from the California Department of Public Health. Because the amount of vaccine available is limited, it is important to follow the guidelines and get the first doses of vaccine to people working in healthcare and skilled nursing facilities, and people who live in long-term care facilities. Eventually, everyone in Butte County who wants to get vaccinated will be able to get vaccinated.

Do I need a primary care physician to get vaccinated?

No. Depending on which phase and tier individuals qualify for, they may get the vaccine in one of several ways: Local pharmacy, Community Vaccination clinic, Healthcare provider.

What is a realistic timeline for when the vaccine will be available to the general population?

The State is prioritizing vaccines for equitable distribution to everyone in California who wants it. We expect to have enough supplies to vaccinate most Californians by summer 2021.