



Inter Valley Health Plan

Medicare plans for health. Not for profit.

FAQ's COVID-19 Vaccine

Q: When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available?

A: As you may know, the government is planning a phased approach, which will provide the vaccine gradually, starting with healthcare workers and those at the very highest risk from the virus – such as those who live in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. As more vaccines become available, this will expand to those 65 and older. We recommend checking your county's website regularly for updates —and we'll keep our members informed as well.

Q: What does a phased approach for the COVID-19 vaccine mean?

A: Because there won't be enough vaccines for everyone right away, the government is making it available first to those who need it most and, as the supply of vaccines increases, it will be made available to more and more people. The phases right now are:

Phase:

- 1a: Healthcare workers treating COVID-19 patients, healthcare workers likely to be exposed to COVID-19 patients and those living in nursing homes and long-term care facilities
 - 1b: Adults 75 and older and frontline essential workers
 - 1c: Adults 65-74 and adults with high-risk medical conditions
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Q: How will I know it's time for me get the vaccine?

A: We will let our members know when the vaccines become available and any additional details that we have at that time. Please make sure we have your correct contact information, including your e-mail, mailing address and phone number. We'll update our website regularly, too, so keep checking back.

Q: Where will I get the vaccine?

A: We'll provide more information or guidance to our members as it becomes available.

Q: Will Inter Valley Health Plan cover the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Yes, the COVID-19 vaccine will be covered at no cost to you.

Q: How many doses of the vaccine will I need?

A: The current vaccines require two doses – and they must be two doses of the same vaccine, from the same manufacturer, so be sure to get your second dose from the same place you receive your first dose. It's also very important to get your second dose within the recommended timeframe—for most, this means 21 or 28 days after your first dose.

Q: Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

A: According to FDA Commissioner Stephen M. Hahn, M.D: "Through the FDA's open and transparent scientific review process, two COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized in an expedited timeframe while adhering to the rigorous standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization that the American people have come to expect from the FDA. These standards and our review process included input from independent scientific and public health experts as well as a thorough analysis of the data by the FDA.

Q: What else can I do to stay safe until the vaccine is available?

A: Keep up with all the precautions of the past several months: stay home and avoid gatherings, wear a face covering and keep 6-feet apart from others when you are in public, wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds, and avoid touching your face/mouth/nose.

**Keep up to date by regularly checking the CDC website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>**

If you have any questions or concerns please call our Member Care Team

800-251-8191 or TTY 711

8 am - 8 pm 7 days a week