



FAQs – Vaccinations – Jan. 12, 2021

Hillsborough County government, in partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Hillsborough County, recently began distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to residents age 65 and older. Here are answers to questions you may have. Please check this site frequently as updates will be provided when they become available.

Is there a cost to be vaccinated?

There is no cost to be vaccinated at one of the County's public vaccination sites. Insurance is not required.

Are appointments required?

Yes, appointments are mandatory. There will be no vaccines for persons without appointments, and there is no waiting list.

Where are the current vaccination sites for residents age 65 and older?

- Strawberry Festival Fairgrounds, 2700 W. Risk St., Plant City, FL 33563
 - Access only off W. Reynolds Street
- Ed Radice Sports Complex, 14720 Ed Radice Drive, Tampa, FL 33626
- Vance Vogel Sports Complex, 13012 Bullfrog Creek Road, Gibsonton, FL 33534

An appointment is mandatory.

If I work in health care or am considered an essential employee, but I am not age 65 or older, can I still be vaccinated at one of these sites?

At this time, the public vaccination sites are only for people who are age 65 and older.

My spouse/partner and I share the same email address, how do I create two accounts?

One account should be created with your email address and the second separate account may be created with a valid telephone number and you can select "I don't have an Email". At the time of account creation, you will receive a unique identification code for use with logging in with your phone number.

Can I schedule my appointment at the same time as my spouse/partner?

Yes, it is possible. For those attempting to secure appointments for their spouse/partner in the same age group, it is advised that you contact the call center at (850) 848-5287 to attempt to schedule both appointments at the same time. The call center will have to register each person separately.

For those who would still prefer to schedule online, each individual would first need to set up their individual account, then attempt to secure individual appointment slots. Should the same time slot not be available when scheduling your spouse/partner's appointment, secure the next available appointment and then email Covid19support@cdrmaguire.com to request a change in the appointment to the same time as your spouse/partner.

Why aren't there more appointments available?

Quantities of the vaccine are limited, and demand is overwhelming. Please be assured that the County is making every effort to vaccinate residents as quickly as possible based on the quantities of vaccine that are provided by the state of Florida. As availability of the vaccine grows and demand evens out, it will be easier to ensure everyone who qualifies receives an appointment. Meanwhile, the County is striving to make the process work smoothly.

When will more appointments become available?

Hillsborough County expects to receive new supplies of vaccines from the state weekly. Vaccination appointments will be made available based on supply.

How many doses of the vaccine are required?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the two authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States both need two doses to be effective.

What vaccine will be available at the public dispensing sites?

The type of vaccine depends on supplies provided by the state. Ask the health care worker who is administering the injection what type is being dispensed that day for first-time recipients.

How will I know when I should return for the second dose of the vaccine?

Your second appointment will be scheduled for you at the same time that you schedule your first dose. It is important to follow the instructions exactly as they are provided to you so that the vaccine administered in the follow-up injection is the same kind as the initial dose, and to achieve maximum effectiveness of the vaccine.

Will I receive a COVID-19 Vaccine Record Card?

All residents who receive a COVID-19 vaccine will be provided a COVID-19 vaccination record card. This card will include important information such as patient name, type of vaccine received, date of first dose, date of second dose, and the location the vaccines were administered. Residents are asked to bring the vaccination record card with them when they return for their second dose, and are encouraged to keep the card in a safe place as a record. Lost cards can be reported to the Immunizations Section at the Florida Department of Health.

If I made the appointment as a caretaker for an elderly person, can I get the details for the follow-up dose sent to me?

The details for the second appointment will go to the email or phone number entered during account registration.

Do I need to be a Hillsborough County resident to be vaccinated at these sites?

No, there is not a statewide residency requirement to get a COVID-19 vaccine, and you do not need to be a resident of Hillsborough County to receive a vaccine at these distribution sites. Residents, full-time and seasonal, as well as visitors age 65 years and older may register for an appointment.

Appointments are mandatory.

What do I need to bring with me to the appointment?

- A photo ID with your name and date of birth (for example: Florida driver's license, state-issued ID, or passport)
- Proof of your appointment (printed copy or screenshot of the confirmation QR code you received via email or text message)
- Completed consent form
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when receiving any vaccine, including a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove a mask without assistance should not wear a mask.

Can I arrive early for my appointment?

No. Please arrive during your appointment atime window. Do not arrive ahead of your scheduled appointment time. Those arriving early will be turned away and instructed to return during their appointment time window.

What can I expect when I arrive at the vaccination site?

- The County's public vaccination sites are drive-thru only. You will stay in your vehicle throughout the entire process.

- Please arrive at the time of your scheduled appointment. Do not arrive early. Arriving early creates traffic back-ups and impacts operations at the site. Those arriving early will be turned away and instructed to return at the appointment time.
- Only people with an appointment will receive a vaccination. People who arrive without a reservation, including other passengers in the vehicle, cannot be vaccinated.
- Staff and directional signage will assist drivers in navigating vehicles through each station.
- You will be greeted by staff who will verify your appointment and check you in. They will ask a series of questions to assess your situation and level of comfort about receiving the vaccine.
- The next stop is the clinical area, where the vaccine will be administered while you are seated in your vehicle. Trained medical personnel will administer the vaccine. The injection will be given in the upper arm; wear clothing that can easily accommodate this.
- You will be given information about symptoms to watch for in the event of an adverse reaction to the vaccine and instructions on what to do. You will also receive a vaccination card. Keep the card in a safe place and ready for your second dose.
- You will be directed to drive your vehicle to a waiting area for an observation period that will last approximately 15 to 30 minutes.
- Appointments for the required second dose will be made at the time of scheduling.

What should I do if I have a reaction to the vaccine when I get home?

Follow the instructions provided during your visit. If you have a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.

Visit [HCFLGov.net/Vaccine](https://www.hcflgov.net/Vaccine) for the latest COVID-19 vaccine information and additional FAQs as vaccine distribution efforts continue.

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