

# COVID-19 UPDATES:

## Testing, Vaccines and Latest Information

News about COVID-19 is changing rapidly. As vaccines become more available, here's some [helpful information](#) and [resources](#) to keep in mind.

### Continuation of \$0 COVID-19 Testing Services

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) and Kaiser will continue to cover the cost of COVID-19 testing and test-related visits. You can also find no-cost testing locations [here](#). For more information, contact BCBSTX at 1-800-311-1593 or [www.bcbstx.com](http://www.bcbstx.com) and Kaiser at 1-800-464-4000 or [www.kp.org](http://www.kp.org)

### COVID-19 Vaccines

#### When You'll Be Eligible

Knowing who's eligible for the vaccine can seem confusing. Overall, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has laid out [distribution priority recommendations](#) based on individuals' age, occupation and health status.

However, to know where you stand and for the most up-to-date plans in your state, check with your [local health department](#). When you're eligible, you can use this [VaccineFinder](#) to locate an administration site near you. While Ensign is not requiring employees to get COVID-19 vaccines, we strongly encourage you to be well informed and aware of the vaccine options.

#### What to Expect



You **will pay \$0** to receive FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines at any location.



Depending on the FDA-approved vaccine you receive, you might **need one dose or two doses** (scheduled several weeks apart). Your vaccine administrator will confirm this for you.



At your first appointment, you'll get a vaccine card showing your second dose date, if necessary. **Keep this card in a safe place** (take a photo of it, too), as it will serve as your proof of vaccination.



Speak to your doctor about **potential side effects** and if you have any questions or concerns about receiving the vaccine.



Even once you're vaccinated, you should still **continue to practice safety precautions**. Wear a face mask and maintain social distancing in public, wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, etc.



Here are a few ways you can make sure you're prepared:

- Make sure your records (birthday, health history, current conditions, etc.) with your primary care physician (PCP) are accurate and updated. Some health care systems are proactively making vaccine appointments for patients age 65+ they have on file.
- Call your pharmacy, grocery store and other common local vaccine locations to see if they're offering wait lists.
- Visit the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) website for information on the partnership.
- Check with your [local health department](#) or use this [VaccineFinder](#) to find vaccine locations if you believe you're currently eligible.

Click [here](#) for more information on what to expect when you get your vaccine.