

COVID Vaccination FAQs

1. Where can I find information about the COVID vaccine?

You can find more information about the vaccine at this DHEC website: <https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccine-faqs>

2. Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. All COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States were tested in clinical studies involving thousands of people. These studies were done to make sure the vaccines meet safety standards and protect people of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns, although CDC has learned of reports that some people have experienced severe allergic reactions. All the approved COVID-19 vaccines have met the same safety standards as all other vaccines used in the United States.

[Additional Information for People Worried about COVID-19 Vaccination \(cdc.gov\)](#)

3. Which state employees are eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1b, and when does Phase 1b start?

According to DHEC, individuals eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1b may make appointments beginning Monday, March 8, 2021.

Currently, five groups of individuals are eligible in Phase 1b. Those groups are:

- **Anyone age 55 and older.**
- **People with increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.**
 - **People age 16-54 with one or more of the following high-risk medical conditions:**
 - Cancer (current, not a history of cancer), chronic kidney disease (any stage), chronic lung disease, diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2), Down syndrome, heart disease (congestive heart disease, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary hypertension), HIV/AIDS, solid organ transplant, obesity (BMI >30), pregnancy, sickle cell disease.
 - People who have a developmental or other severe high-risk disability that makes developing severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection more likely.
- **Front-line workers with increased occupational risk.**
 - Must be in-person at their place of work; and
 - Perform a job in which they are at increased risk of exposure due to **frequent, close (less than 6 feet) and ongoing (more than 15 minutes) contact** with others in the work environment.
 - Examples of state employees who meet these criteria include staff that are in the workplace such as teachers, law enforcement officers, and other employees who have regular, sustained contact with customers or clients. It does not include all essential employees but is limited to only those employees working in-person at their place of work, working on the front line and who are at increased occupational risk of exposure.
- **Individuals at increased risk in settings where people are living and working in close contact.**
 - Residents and workers in group home settings for the mentally or physically disabled or those with behavioral or substance abuse conditions

- Workers and residents in homeless shelters
- Workers and residents in community training homes
- State and local correctional facility staff with direct inmate contact
- Correctional and immigration detention facility inmates
- Migrant farmworkers living in shared housing or reliant on shared transportation
- All workers in health care and community health settings who have routine, direct patient contact and were not vaccinated in Phase 1a
- **All workers in health care and community health settings who have routine, direct patient contact and were not vaccinated in Phase 1a**

4. Which state employees are eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1c, and when does Phase 1c start?

According to DHEC, individuals eligible to be vaccinated in Phase 1c are anticipated to be able to make appointments beginning on approximately Monday, April 12, 2021.

Currently, two groups of individuals are eligible in Phase 1c:

- **Anyone age 45 and older.**
- **Essential workers.**
 - This group includes those who work in essential job categories as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) who are not included in Phase 1b because they do not have frequent, close contact with others in the work environment (examples may include construction workers, delivery drivers, utility workers, etc. who do not have frequent, close and ongoing contact with others).

5. Where can I get the vaccine?

The Citadel does not currently have vaccines in our possession and our partners are unable to conduct an on-campus campus clinic at this time. We are still coordinating this effort and plan to offer vaccines to those that qualify as soon as they become more widely available. Until further notice, employees who qualify for the vaccine should reference the following:

- **SC DHEC Website**
DHEC has a list of locations taking appointments for Phase 1 vaccines at scdhec.gov/vaxlocator. Those with green dots on the map still have appointments available.
- **Medical University of South Carolina**
To sign up for an appointment time, please click on this link: [Schedule a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment | MUSC Health | Charleston SC](#).
- **Roper St. Francis Drive Thru in North Charleston**
Roper St. Francis announced they have a centralized vaccination site at the North Charleston Coliseum. You must have an appointment to receive a vaccination through the drive thru site. Anyone can make an appointment by calling their St. Francis physician or if you are not a St. Francis patient, you may call 843-727-3627 to set up an appointment.
- **Publix Pharmacies (participating locations)**
Eligible 1A category patients are able to schedule an appointment and complete consent forms on the Publix website at www.publix.com/covidvaccine. Participating Publix stores in our area are listed on the website and the number of vaccines are very limited at this time.

6. What should I do once I get the vaccine?

Some employees under the 1A category have already received their first vaccination. The remainder of our campus community will hopefully be covered under the 1B category. If you have not reported your vaccination to Human Resources, please [fill out this form](#) to confirm that you have received the vaccination. This information will be held in strict confidence in Human Resources and only reported in aggregate form to determine the number we ultimately need to request for the remainder of our 1B campus community.

7. Do vaccinated employees still need to quarantine?

According to DHEC, if a fully vaccinated person has close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case, they will not be required to quarantine if they meet the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (two or more weeks following receipt of the second shot in a two-dose series, or more than two weeks following receipt of one shot in a single-dose vaccine);
- Are within three months following receipt of the last dose in the series; and
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current exposure.

8. Will the vaccine be mandatory for state employees?

- No, the vaccine will not be mandatory for state employees as they become eligible for the vaccine. State employees are strongly encouraged to receive the vaccine when they become eligible to receive it.

9. What documentation, if any, can an agency require from vaccinated employees?

- Agencies may request documentation directly from the employee. Please note this documentation may consist of a copy of the vaccination card or a printout from an online pharmacy or medical portal. Confidentiality requirements related to medical documentation apply to these records. The Citadel requires a confirmation form to be completed. See number six (6) above for the confirmation form link.