

FIGHT COVID-19 | GET VACCINATED



Guidance Date 1/06/21

EMPLOYEE HEALTH COVID VACCINE ADVERSE EVENT MANAGEMENT GUIDE

1. Most common adverse reactions (side effects) to COVID vaccine

Refer to CDC's page "What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine"

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

42% of recipients reported some type of reaction compared to 19% of placebo recipients.

- Injection site reactions (pain, redness, soreness) (84.1%)
- Fatigue (62.9%)
- Headache (55.1%)
- New or worsened muscle pain (38.3%)
- Chills (31.9%)
- New or worsened joint pain (23.6%)
- Fever (14.2%)

Of note, only 27.8% of study participants suffering symptoms considered them severe enough to take over-the-counter pain medication (Tylenol, NSAID) to treat. Also, 84% of solicited adverse reactions were described as mild to moderate. No participant solicited medical care to treat adverse reactions. Adverse events considered to be linked to vaccination generally start within 6 weeks of vaccine receipt.

2. What can I do if I am experience symptoms after the vaccine?

- a. If employee is experiencing pain or discomfort, advise to talk to their primary care provider about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.
- b. Suggestions for reducing pain and discomfort at injection site:
 - i. Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
 - ii. Use or exercise your arm
 - iii. Advise employee to contact their primary care provider if redness or tenderness at injection site increases after 24 hours
- c. To reduce discomfort from fever:
 - i. Drink plenty of fluids
 - ii. Dress lightly

3. What timeframe of symptom should be considered vaccine-related?

- a. Systemic adverse reactions: If employee has received COVID-19 vaccine and is experiencing side effects 1-2 days following vaccine receipt, such as the common listed above, symptoms are likely due to the vaccine and symptoms should resolve within 1-2 days of onset of symptoms per CDC COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ.
- b. Local injection site or systemic reactions were measured for 7 days post-vaccination during the research studies.

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4. Does the employee require quarantine if they develop these symptoms?

- a. If the employee has not had an exposure (using CDC definition) to somebody with laboratory-confirmed COVID and they have symptoms consistent with a vaccine adverse reaction, then they do not need quarantine.

5. Does the employee require a COVID test if they develop these symptoms?

- a. If symptoms are deemed to be related to the vaccine (common adverse reaction side effects as listed above begin 1-2 days after vaccine receipt and resolve within 1-2 days of symptom onset), no COVID testing is required.
- b. If symptoms are not resolved within 2 days of symptom onset and include any systemic signs and symptoms consistent with SARS-CoV-2 infection:
 - i. Cough
 - ii. SOB
 - iii. Sore throat
 - iv. Rhinorrhea
 - v. Loss of taste or smell

Employee can be offered COVID-19 testing through EH COVID Hotline through Queen's Island Urgent Care location. If testing for COVID-19, EE will be required to quarantine while awaiting test results.

6. What symptoms or conditions will require COVID testing and/or quarantine?

- a. If patient develops signs and symptoms typical of COVID, instead of the vaccine, such as the following:
 - i. Cough
 - ii. SOB
 - iii. Sore throat
 - iv. Rhinorrhea
 - v. Loss of taste or smell
- b. If the patient has persistent **systemic** symptoms after 2 days. Systemic symptoms include fever, headache, chills, fatigue, general malaise, joint pain.

7. Does the employee require time off work if they develop these symptoms?

- a. The employee may require time off work depending on (1) the symptom, (2) the symptom severity, and (3) the type of work the EE performs. EH COVID Hotline (808-691-8720) to assess and advise EE for time off work.
- b. Once EE notifies EH COVID Hotline (808-691-8720) and hotline deems EE symptoms to be vaccine-related side effect(s)/reaction(s), a vaccine-related certification return-to-work note will be emailed to EE's manager verifying vaccine-related side effects. If employee's symptoms are improved/resolved for 24 hours employee can return to work. NO in-person clearance through EH needed and NO medical certification required from PCP. EH COVID Hotline will email EE's manager RTW clearance note.
- c. If COVID-19 tested, return-to-work clearance after developing adverse reactions/side effects after COVID-19 vaccine, if employee's symptoms are improved/resolved for 24 hours and

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COVID test is NEGATIVE, employee can be cleared to return to work by calling EH COVID Hotline at 808-691-8720 to schedule in-person clearance through Employee Health.

Excerpt from CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report: 12/13/20

Among vaccine recipients, reactogenicity symptoms, defined as solicited local injection site or systemic reactions during the 7 days after vaccination, were frequent and mostly mild to moderate.

Systemic adverse reactions were more commonly reported after the second dose than after the first dose and were generally more frequent and severe in persons aged 18–55 years than in those aged >55 years.

Systemic adverse reactions had a median onset of 1–2 days after vaccine receipt and resolved in a median of 1 day. Severe local and systemic adverse reactions (grade ≥ 3 , defined as interfering with daily activity) occurred more commonly in vaccine recipients than in placebo recipients. Among vaccine recipients, 8.8% reported any grade ≥ 3 reaction; the most common symptoms were fatigue (4.2%), headache (2.4%), muscle pain (1.8%), chills (1.7%), and injection site pain (1.4%). Generally, grade ≥ 3 reactions were more commonly reported after the second dose than after the first dose and were less prevalent in older than in younger participants.

Resources on Adverse Event Management

- <https://www.cvdvaccine.com/>
- <http://eww.queens.org/ic/corona/vaccine/Pfizer-BioNTech%20COVID-19%20Vaccine%20EUA%20Fact%20Sheet%20for%20Recipients.pdf>
- http://eww.queens.org/ic/corona/vaccine/Pfizer%20Vaccine%20FAQ_12.11.20.pdf
- http://eww.queens.org/ic/corona/vaccine/What%20to%20Expect%20After%20Vaccination_12.15.20.pdf
- <http://eww.queens.org/ic/corona/vaccine/V-Safe%20Information%20Sheet%20-%20Smart%20Phone%20Personalized%20Health-Checker%20for%20CDC.pdf>