



## COVID-19 Vaccine Information

At FirstCare Health Plans, we're grateful for the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines. In recent months, we've been working with our parent company – Baylor Scott & White Health – to help our employees, patients and health plan members get vaccinated so we can return to the things we love: being with family and friends in our homes and out in the world.

We want to help you get vaccinated, too. Please take advantage of this life-changing opportunity to return to the things you love, protect yourself and your family, and support the larger efforts to defeat COVID-19.

And remember: you pay nothing out-of-pocket for a COVID-19 vaccine. All costs are covered.

### How do I get a vaccine?

In the state of Texas, everyone age 16 and older is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. You do not have to be part of a special age group or have an existing health condition. Texas is one of the first states to make vaccines widely available for all adults.

You can get a vaccine in several ways:

- Visit the [Baylor Scott & White Health website](#) and sign up for a vaccine through the MyBSWHealth member portal or by calling 844.BSW.VACC
- [Go to the website for Texas Health and Human Services](#) and see options for vaccination hubs, retail pharmacies and community vaccine providers across Texas
- [Register for the Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler \(TPHVS\)](#) and use the statewide system for making a vaccine appointment

For more information, and to find vaccine opportunities outside of Texas, visit this website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [“How Do I Find a COVID-19 Vaccine?”](#)

## Are the vaccines safe? Do they work?

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our communities.

On April 24, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration recommended resuming use of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for persons 18 years of age and older in the U.S., reaffirming its safety after a brief pause.

Following a thorough review of the data surrounding the small group of individuals who reported a rare and severe type of blood clot, the CDC, FDA and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) **overwhelmingly agreed that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the risks.** However, based on guidance from the CDC and FDA, women under the age of 50 should be aware of this rare adverse event and know that there are other COVID-19 vaccine options available for which this risk has not been seen.

According to the CDC, [COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective](#). They recommend you get a vaccine “as soon as you are eligible.”

For Texans, that means now! Learn more about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines:

- [Read the article “Understanding the different COVID-19 vaccines”](#) from Baylor Scott & White Health
- [Read the article “Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines”](#) on the CDC website
- [Watch the video “What to Know About COVID-19 Vaccine Safety”](#) from the Texas Department of State Health Services
- [Watch the video “COVID-19 Vaccines: How Do We Know They Are Safe?”](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

