FAQ for Employees and Students Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine

Please review all educational material provided prior to your vaccination.

UW Medicine Employee Vaccination Hotline: 206.520.8788 (daily, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

It is important to recognize that some people will have symptoms after vaccination that are like COVID-19 but are not an actual infection. Many of these symptoms tell you that the vaccine is working. However, for some people with a recent exposure to another person with COVID-19, the same symptoms may mean that they are infected.

I was vaccinated yesterday (or the day before) and feel fine. Should I go to work?
Yes, please continue with your normal schedule.

I was vaccinated 24-72 hours ago, and my arm is sore where I got the injection. I have no other symptoms. Should I go to work?
Yes, please continue with your normal schedule. This is a common immune response to the COVID-19 vaccine.

I was vaccinated 24-72 hours ago and now have one or more of the following: cough, trouble breathing, loss of taste or smell, a temperature over 38 C or 100.4 F.
These are symptoms that are not expected after COVID-19 vaccination. You should schedule a COVID-19 test as soon as possible and should not go to work.

I was vaccinated 24-72 hours ago and feel tired, have a headache or sore muscles/joints. Should I go to work?
These symptoms could be due to either the vaccine or due to COVID-19. If the symptoms started after vaccination and improved within 24-48 hours, you can return to work. If they persist or get worse, you should schedule a COVID-19 test and not go to work. If you are unsure, you can call the UW Medicine Employee Vaccination Hotline at 206.520.8788 (daily 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.) for assistance.

I have other concerns about how I feel since getting vaccinated:
Please contact the UW Medicine Employee Vaccination Hotline at 206.520.8788 with questions or contact your PCP.

I have additional healthcare questions, but I don’t have a Primary Care Provider (PCP):
You can establish care with a UW Medicine Primary Care Providers by calling the Contact Center: 206.520.5000

I need to cancel or reschedule the second dose of my vaccination:
Text “cancel” to 206.520.8788 to open the self-scheduling portal where you will be able to cancel or reschedule your vaccination appointment. Remember it is important to receive the second dose. Please reschedule rather than cancel.
SARS-CoV-2 Post-Vaccine Immune Response Protocol

This protocol assumes the individual has NOT been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days and confirmed they did not have symptoms on the days of vaccination.

For other FAQs about UW Medicine’s COVID-19 vaccination program, visit huddle.uwmedicine.org/faq-vaccine-employees or scan this QR code to visit the website.

For more information you can also visit the CDC webpage “Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel” at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/post-vaccine-considerations-healthcare-personnel.html