

Kaiser Permanente – Answers to Common COVID-19 Vaccine Questions

- **Will Kaiser Permanente be doing its own evaluation of the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes. When a COVID-19 vaccine receives an Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA, that vaccine will also be released with safety and efficacy data that will be closely reviewed by our infectious disease and other clinical experts, along with state and federal public health officials.

- **Who will be eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will oversee distribution of the vaccine throughout the United States and will make recommendations about which groups of people should get it first. State officials will use the CDC's guidelines to decide which groups will get the vaccine first in their states.

Federal officials have announced that health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities should be prioritized for the first vaccinations.

There will be a limited supply available when the first vaccine is approved. We'll offer it to people who meet the criteria in each phase of the prioritization process.

- **Will there be a cost to Kaiser Permanente members for the COVID-19 vaccine?**

No. Kaiser Permanente won't charge its members for the vaccine. Vaccine doses purchased with taxpayer dollars are required by the federal government to be given at no cost.

- **Will there be a cost to employers for the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Vaccine doses purchased with taxpayer dollars under Operation Warp Speed are required by the federal government to be given at no cost and there will be no costs for these vaccine doses passed to employers. Where applicable, claims for administering the vaccine to individuals will accumulate to an employer's utilization and could impact future renewal rates.

As of December 16, Kaiser Permanente is extending its policy to waive member out-of-pocket costs for inpatient and outpatient services when treating COVID-19 through at least March 31, 2021, or as long as the ongoing national public health emergency lasts. Members who are diagnosed with COVID-19 will not have to pay co-pays or other cost-share related to their medical care and treatment of COVID-19, even if they have to stay in the hospital.

This waiver applies to all admissions whose date of service is from April 1, 2020 through at least March 31, 2021, or as long as the ongoing national public health emergency lasts.

Visit <https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/northern-california/health-wellness/coronavirus-information> for Kaiser Permanente and COVID-19 information.

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