

January 25, 2021

Changes from the previous version are in red.

COVID-19 Vaccine

Get the facts & answers to your questions

Many of the following questions are specific about the process of the Grundy County Health Department, and will not necessarily translate to other health departments, hospital clinics or retail pharmacies who may administer the vaccine.

Question: I'm 60 years old. When and where can I sign up for the Covid-19 vaccine?

Answer: Grundy takes direction from IDPH about when to move through the distribution phases and begin a new one. Much also depends on how many people in the previous phase are interested, and the availability of vaccine.

As of January 23, Grundy is in Phase 1b, which includes persons 65+ in age and essential personnel, as defined by [IDPH](#). We can vaccinate anyone in 1a or 1b.

Phase 1c and beyond are still in draft form with IDPH, and Grundy will adhere to the guidance when it becomes available.

Community members may find current information at www.grundyhealth.com, the Health Department's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/gchd.illinois>), WCSJ at 8:40am each Monday and Thursday morning, and other local media sources.

Question: When will I be able to sign up for the vaccine?

Answer: Persons in 1a and 1b may fill out the applicable interest survey at www.grundyhealth.com, and more information will be made available to you through the email address provided through the survey. For those persons not active on the internet, we encourage a loved one to act on their behalf and submit the interest survey for them. Again, please monitor local media sources for updated information for when and how to register for an appointment.

It is important to note that submission of the interest survey is not required to then receive an appointment for a vaccine. This is merely a planning tool for the Health Department. As of today, nearly 10,000 interest surveys have been received. And so we are developing a schedule to include 10,000+ appointments over the next several months.

The anticipated online appointment registration system is expected to be live in February, and a link will be made available for all at that time. In these first few weeks of 1b, we are utilizing the interest survey responses to invite the first respondents to schedule appointments. But soon, all will have the same opportunity to schedule, regardless of submission of an interest survey.

January 25, 2021

Changes from the previous version are in red.

Please note that to date, our weekly allocation from the State have been fewer than 1,000 each time. It is going to take several months to obtain and then administer vaccine for every interested person in 1b.

Question: I live in Will County but work in Grundy. Can I receive the vaccine in Grundy?

Answer: Grundy is currently vaccinating residents and the workforce of Grundy County.

Question: I have a compromised immune system. I don't think I should be in crowded places or standing in long lines. What's precautions are being put in place?

Answer: All clinic methods are planned in accordance with all of the guidance related to mitigation: social distancing, masking requirement for all, appropriate PPE of providers, screening upon entrance, hand sanitizer, etc.

Question: What if I don't access the internet? Where and how will I be able to sign up?

Answer: We encourage members of the community who have loved ones that aren't active on the internet or social media to act on behalf of those persons, and submit an interest survey at www.grundyhealth.com. Again this is not a registration or appointment making at this time. Please watch or listen for our media releases for when and how to do that when the time comes.

The Health Department will be primarily scheduling appointments via the internet. For those unable to access the internet, we will have a phone bank reaching out to schedule people. Scheduling, for appointments February – May, is expected to begin in February.

As we enter Phase 1b, additional providers in Grundy may be offering the vaccine, and their registration process may be accessible other ways. Additional providers may include physician offices and retail pharmacies. More information is forthcoming, but as of today, the Health Department is the only place to receive a vaccine, and by appointment. Allocations are minimal, and appointments are scheduled to accommodate the allocations. -

Question: Will there be a drive up clinic? I am disabled and have a hard time getting in and out of the car.

Answer: Several distribution methods are being considered, including drive-through. But this method presents an interesting challenge as we must still administer cautiously and with an observation period following injection. At this time, a drive-through clinic is not yet scheduled.

Question: I am not 65 but do have underlining health problems. I am a cancer patient. Do I still have to wait until the next group?

January 25, 2021

Changes from the previous version are in red.

Answer: Grundy will follow IDPH and ACIP guidance. Currently, persons with underlying health conditions seem to fall within Phase 1c. As IDPH updates the phases, Grundy will adopt those changes.

Question: I have heard about some people having a bad reaction to both of the vaccines. Is one safer than the other?

Answer: Not necessarily. Some people may experience side effects, which are part of the normal immune response to a vaccine. The majority of the side effects, while not seen in every individual, are signs that your body is recognizing the vaccine and mounting an immune response. Based on prior studies, side effects may include pain, redness and swelling at the site of the injection., fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, nausea, malaise, and swollen lymph nodes. These symptoms may occur within 2 days after the shot and last 1 to 2 days. Side effects may be more frequent after the 2nd shot (booster) and less frequent among older adults. Long-term side effects are unknown, although most vaccines do not have long-term side effects. Vaccine studies are ongoing and will continue to monitor and watch for adverse events.

Question: How long after I test positive for COVID-19 should I wait to be vaccinated?

Answer: People should be healthy at the time of vaccination, which means not currently infected with COVID-19 or any other illness. People should also not be vaccinated during their isolation or quarantine period. Per CDC, current evidence suggests that reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. Thus, persons with documented acute COVID-19 infection in the preceding 90 days may delay vaccination until near the end of this period, if desired.

Question: How much will the vaccine cost? Is it covered by insurance?

Answer: There are two costs associated with all vaccination efforts: the administration and the vaccine. This vaccine is completely free, per the federal government. But some clinic sites may charge an administration fee. This fee would be billed to applicable health insurance, and there should be no balance-billing to the patient. Meaning, patients should not receive a bill for anything the insurance company does not cover.

Grundy County Health Department is not charging an administration fee.

Question: What information will I need to be able to sign up? Insurance information? State ID?

Answer: Grundy County Health Department is not collecting insurance information, as we are not charging for the administration of the vaccine. **Presently, name, phone number and email address are required on the interest surveys. Additional demographic information will be**

January 25, 2021

Changes from the previous version are in red.

obtained during the on-line appointment registration. The link to make an appointment is expected to be available in February.

Question: What information will I need to bring with me when receiving the vaccine?

Answer: Please bring your driver's license or state ID. Other demographic information is collected at the time of the administration, when the client signs a consent form.

Question: I'm in 1b, but don't want the vaccine. Can I give "my spot" to someone in 1c who does want it?

Answer: Unfortunately not. The State is quite clear that we are expected to vaccinate people who fall within the phase, and not vaccinate those persons in future phases.