



TO: ALL CCLS, CLE, Fast Pace, and Magnolia Hill employees
FROM: CCLS COVID 19 Task Force
DATE: 11/15/2020
RE: COVID UPDATE #21

Flu Vaccine

Thanks to all the CCLS-CLE employees that shared their documentation for receiving their flu shot this year. Its effectiveness each year depends on the strains that become predominant. However, getting the flu vaccine better protects you, your family, and our clients than not receiving it. The policy will be an annual expectation. For new employees hired during the "flu season," the Employee Influenza Vaccination policy applies.

COVID Vaccine

With the first COVID Vaccine in the country administered this morning, CCLS-CLE employees have questions. In response, we thought a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) format would be helpful.

Q: Where are we "inline" to receive the COVID vaccine?

A: CCLS-CLE employees are in Group 1A. However, in that same group before us are hospital workers, emergency responders, and nursing home personnel. CDC made this recommendation on December 3, 2020, and based it on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an independent panel of medical and public health experts.

Q: When might CCLS clients and employees get the COVID vaccine?

A: It's not known because the manufacturing and distribution are still ramping up. The best guess is CCLS-CLE clients and employees would be offered the vaccine within the next 45-60 days.

Q: How will we know when we may get the COVID vaccine?

A: There will be more emails and communications about the vaccine. CCLS-CLE registered the addresses of each of our programs with the federal government last fall. We gave them the number of clients and staff in each program. You will have notice as to when the vaccine will be available for administration. For staff wanting the vaccine, they will be asked to be at the program during the time of administration of the vaccine.

Q: Should we get the COVID vaccine?

A: CCLS-CLE strongly recommends you get the COVID vaccine

Q: Is CCLS-CLE requiring us to get the COVID Vaccine?

A: No, we are not requiring it, but CCLS-CLE strongly recommends you get the COVID vaccine to protect yourself, your loved ones, your co-workers, and those we care for.

Q: Why not require it as you did with the flu vaccine?

A: The COVID vaccine received emergency approval from the FDA. According to them is it safe. Unlike the flu vaccine, however, this is the first year. CCLS will wait and watch for further direction and guidance before we consider making the vaccine mandatory.

Q: What do we as employees do until we receive the COVID vaccine?

A: The same thing you are doing today. By CCLS policy, you must still always wear a mask and follow the other safety measures, while working. While not at work you should stay 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often. Click here for other steps you can take to [protect yourself and others from COVID-19](#).

Q: Once I get the COVID vaccine will I still have to wear the mask while at work?

A: Yes. Until the country achieves a level of Herd Immunity, CCLS will maintain the current policy that mandates you always wear a mask while at work.

Q: What is Herd Immunity?

A: Herd Immunity occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune.

Q: What percentage of the population do we need to achieve herd immunity?

A: Experts do not know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. The percentage of people who need to have protection to achieve herd immunity varies by disease. Therefore, YOU should do your part. Again, CCLS strongly recommends you get the COVID vaccine.

Q: How will we know how many people have received the vaccine?

A: DHS in a 60-page plan developed in October outlines the elements of their dashboard. On the (yet to be released) dashboard you will find the number and percentages of people, county-by-county. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02813a.pdf>

Q: I have more questions not covered in this FAQ. Where can I find more information?

A: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

Direct Care Workers Stipends

The State of Wisconsin DHS website has the following for the next payment:

December 2020-early January 2021

Additional Payment details for 2021 will be provided as they become available.

CCLS has not received any information from the MCO's about the next payment so it does not appear it will arrive by year-end. We will monitor the DHS site and let you know when we receive more information. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/ltc-workforce-funding-faq.htm>