

EMPLOYEE UPDATE: COVID-19
01.08.2021

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As you are undoubtedly aware, COVID 19 vaccinations are now being produced and Administered. While it is expected that there will be sufficient supply of vaccine available, distribution is being conducted in phases in order to prioritize vaccination of certain populations. The state of [Ohio's plan](#) reflects this phased approach. In the first two phases vaccines will not be generally available to the public. Currently the focus is on healthcare workers, first responders, and those individuals most at risk such as nursing home residents. The next phase is expected to begin sometime in the next several weeks and will include vaccination of certain other "essential workers" such as schoolteachers and staff. That said, at this point the Governor has made clear that K-12 teachers and staff are the top priority and will be first in line.

We have been in contact with the Jefferson County Health Department and they have indicated that as the program unfolds locally, and as they receive more supplies, they may be in a position to provide vaccinations for faculty and staff who are interested. At this point, they have created an online vaccine interest form on their website and have asked us to inform all of you and provide you with the link: <https://jchealth.com/vaccine-interest-1b/>. You will be contacted by the County regarding next steps. At this point there is no clear sense of when exactly these vaccinations will occur.

While supplies remain limited the vaccines will be administered at hospitals, care facilities and local health departments. Once the vaccine is more widely available, Ohio plans to administer the vaccine at different types of locations across the state, including independent and large-chain pharmacies. The University's pharmacy and health insurance benefits include coverage for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

While we are more than happy to work with health officials to attempt to arrange access to the vaccine for interested employees, the University is not encouraging or discouraging employee vaccination. There certainly is a lot of conversation going on regarding the morality of the various COVID-19 vaccines. Each of us has the obligation to inform our conscience and act accordingly. These issues can be complex and confusing - especially for an accounting major like me. To this end click [here](#) for a document from the USCCB which discusses moral considerations related to the COVID-19 vaccine (thank you Dr. Hildebrand).

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Peace and blessings,
Brenan Pergi

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