

COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees
of Southcoast Health

Jan. 8, 2021

Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- *The latest on Southcoast's **Vaccination Program** and guidance on **vaccine symptom management***
- *A new online form for use in the **Return to Work** process*
- *An important reminder about **eye protection***
- *Southcoast's most recent **COVID-19 data***

Please scroll through the entire Bulletin to find these important updates.

And be sure to visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

Thank you.

UPDATE: COVID-19 Vaccination Program



As of this Bulletin, about 4,000 Southcoast employees, providers and staff have been vaccinated, with a consent rate of about 85% and rising.

For more information on consent and prioritization, along with fact sheets, [please visit the Southcoast intranet.](#)

NEW: For the most recently updated vaccination clinic hours, [please click here.](#)

Currently, Southcoast is vaccinating our “medium group” in Phase 1 of rollout, which follows CDC and Department of Public Health guidance. This group includes clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers who are COVID-facing.

In the coming weeks and months, Southcoast will expand vaccinations to other employees and staff, as well as members of the community, based on guidance from Massachusetts and Rhode Island. For additional details, [please click here.](#)

Southcoast encourages all employees and staff planning to consent to vaccination [here.](#)

- If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning to become pregnant, [please click here.](#)

- If you are currently COVID-19-positive or have been previously infected, [please click here](#).

For a video testimonial from Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Dani Hackner, [please click here](#).

For a video testimonial from Registered Dietitian, Advanced Practice, Kristen Abatecola, [please click here](#).

Vaccination is safe and effective. In the rollout of the vaccines, there have been rare reactions.

- After the initial vaccine, occasional swelling or pain at the injection site has been reported.
- After the second shot, infrequent and mild systemic symptoms like malaise, low-grade temperature or headache have been reported.

If you or a team member receives the vaccine and experiences symptoms, please consult this new guidance on [Healthcare Worker Vaccine Symptom Management](#).

Please stay tuned for increased vaccine communications early next week, including a FAQ based on questions received during the rollout so far.

UPDATE: Return to Work

When [returning to work](#) following an absence due to COVID-19, you must be fever-free for at least 24 hours, your symptoms must have improved, 10 days must have elapsed since onset of your symptoms (or first positive test) **AND** you must have received clearance from Employee Health.

NEW: When you are ready to return to work, you can now submit a Return to Work form online using this link: www.southcoast.org/covidreturn.

- This is the preferred method to submit your Return to Work form.

- You will be prompted to login with your Southcoast username/password to fill out the required information that will be received by Employee Health.

If you prefer to email the Return to Work information, you can still submit the information listed below to Employee Health via confidential email at sc-covidreturn@southcoast.org.

IF YOU USE THE EMAIL METHOD FOR RETURN TO WORK, YOU *MUST USE YOUR SOUTHCOAST EMAIL* TO SEND THE REQUEST.

If you have questions regarding accessing your Southcoast email from home or your mobile device, [please click here](#) and consult the “Two-Factor Authentication” section.

- Include “**Return to Work**” in the subject line.
- Please include the following information: first name, last name, DOB, phone number
- Manager name, home department
- Symptoms (please specify all symptoms and the date symptoms began)
- Date of COVID test
- Result of COVID test (positive)
- Dates out of work

Please DO NOT CALL Employee Health directly.

You will be contacted by phone and/or email within 24 hours after submitting information.

Southcoast is monitoring and responding to Return to Work emails/web requests every day, including weekends and holidays.

REMINDER: Eye protection

Southcoast [guidance for personal protective equipment](#) (PPE) includes the use of universal eye protection as well as mask whenever you are in the buildings.

Eye protection is required whenever you are within 6 feet of others unless a protective barrier is in place.

Southcoast has a number of different options available to staff including both disposable and reusable face shields and goggles available through materials management. They should be ordered along with other PPE supplies for your unit/department.

Eyeglasses are not considered eye protection – they are NOT PPE and do not offer sufficient protection!

The use of eye protection protects you from potential COVID-19 transmission.

STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases

- As of 5pm on January 8, we currently have 147 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – 23 of those patients are in Intensive Care Units.
- In addition, we currently have 29 patients under investigation (PUI) currently hospitalized across our system – 1 of those patients is in ICU.

COVID-19 daily dashboards, generated by the Southcoast Analytics Team, are available [here](#).

For testing information, guidance on PPE, hotlines and much more, please visit Southcoast's [COVID-19 Hub](#) for employees and staff.

Questions? Please email them to faq@southcoast.org.

Thank you, and be well.