

# COVID-19 Bulletin

 Southcoast Health

Exclusively for the employees  
of Southcoast Health

October 6, 2021

Greetings, Southcoast Colleagues.

In this Bulletin, you will find the following:

- **REMINDER: COVID vaccine booster shots (Pfizer series)**
- **IMPORTANT: Timing for receiving both flu and COVID-19 vaccination**
- **Flu vaccination for PUI and COVID+ inpatients**
- **CDC issues urgent pregnancy health advisory on vaccination recommendations**
- **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

Please scroll through the entire Bulletin for these updates, and be sure to visit Southcoast's redesigned [COVID-19 Employee Hub](#).

*Thank you.*

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## **REMINDER: COVID-19 booster shots (Pfizer series)**

Southcoast is offering EMPLOYEE-ONLY walk-in hours at the Vanity Fair location (375 Faunce Corner Road, Dartmouth) for Pfizer booster shots, as authorized by the CDC. Booster shots will be available to employees every week as needed, but the days/hours may change in subsequent based on demand, vaccine supply, updated CDC recommendations, etc.

**Next week's schedule for eligible-employee walk-in boosters at Vanity Fair:**

- Tuesday, October 12, 1:30pm - 5pm
- Wednesday, October 13, 9am - 6pm

The CDC recommends booster shots at least 6 months after receiving the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine only. CDC recommendations:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their PfizerBioNTech primary series.
- People aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.
- People aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Employees can receive their booster wherever it is convenient for them: at Southcoast Health's Vanity Fair public clinic, at a pharmacy (e.g., CVS, Walgreen's, Stop & Shop), or at another non-Southcoast vaccination site. However, employees who get a booster at a clinic outside of Southcoast's designated Employee Only clinics will need to upload a copy of their vaccination card in order to have it recorded in their employee health record.

You can verify vaccination by uploading a vaccination card [here](#). This link can also be found on the Employee Health intranet page.

If you have any questions regarding the Southcoast booster plan, please email [VaccineQuestions@southcoast.org](mailto:VaccineQuestions@southcoast.org).

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### **IMPORTANT: Timing for receiving both flu and COVID-19 vaccination**

The flu and COVID vaccines can be administered at the same time. There is no set waiting time required between receiving the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine. However, it is recommended that the vaccines be given in separate arms, not the same arm to lessen the chance of a localized reaction.

See also from the CDC: [Frequently Asked Influenza \(Flu\) Questions: 2021-2022 Season](#).

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### **Flu vaccination for PUI and COVID+ inpatients**

Per the current CDC recommendations: “Flu vaccination should be deferred for any PUI or COVID+ patient until they have had their isolation discontinued, are out of the acute phase of illness (afebrile and improving) and are convalescing, at which point the flu vaccine could be given.”

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### **CDC issues urgent pregnancy health advisory on vaccination recommendations**

On Sept 29, the CDC issued an urgent health advisory strongly recommending COVID-19 vaccination for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future.

Read the [CDC media statement on the pregnancy health advisory](#).

More information is also available on this CDC.gov page: [COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#).

The official health advisory can be found [here](#).

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### **STATUS REPORT: COVID-19 cases**

As of midday, we have 54 patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 hospitalized across our system – with 8 positive cases in ICU. In addition, we currently have 14 PUI currently hospitalized across our system – with 0 PUI in ICU.

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

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*Thank you, and be well.*