

COVID-19 Vaccine Update:

Emailed Feb. 24, 2021

To students, faculty and staff:

We are pleased to provide this update, as well as reminders, about COVID-19 vaccine programs.

Vaccination supplies

The Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) continues to schedule appointments for individuals currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, including EMU employees and students who fit into priority categories defined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Although EMU does not determine these prioritizations, we continue to advocate with government officials that EMU faculty and staff are critical to the functioning of the University and that vaccination prioritizations should reflect that fact. President Biden and other government officials have stated that vaccines should be available to every adult who wants one by mid-summer.

The WCHD receives vaccine supplies each week from the MDHHS, which allocates vaccine doses to local health systems and health providers. The WCHD schedules appointments based on the amount of vaccine received each week. EMU and WCHD do not control these supplies, but we are pleased to report that additional vaccine supplies continue to become available each week.

Vaccination priority groups

The priority groups **currently** eligible for vaccinations include:

Phase 1A

Priority One: Keep critical health care infrastructure open and functioning through vaccination of staff who perform direct patient care and work in critical areas.

Priority Two: Prevent outbreaks and protect residents in long-term care facilities.

Priority Three: Keep necessary health care infrastructure functioning.

Phase 1B

Group A: Persons 75 years of age or older not covered in Phase 1A.

Group B: Prioritized frontline workers whose work role has frequent or intense exposure, and, due to the nature of the work, are not able to maintain social distance. Specific prioritized categories: prek-12 teachers, support staff, child care workers, firefighters, police, corrections workers, workers in homeless shelters.

Phase 1C

Group A: Individuals age 65 to 74 years

Vaccination through the WCHD

In a plan developed with the WCHD, the WCHD will assume responsibility to vaccinate any current EMU employee or student who is included in the above eligible groups and who has not had success in scheduling their first vaccine appointment. **This plan does not apply to spouses, partners, or family members of the EMU employee or student.**

You may go to www.washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine to determine if you are currently eligible.

If you are eligible based on the information on the WCHD website, fill out the [INDIVIDUAL Vaccination Survey](#) to request a vaccine appointment. (Do NOT fill out the organizational survey.) You will NOT schedule an appointment when you complete the survey. Instead, you will receive a message that you will be contacted by the WCHD to schedule an appointment when slots become available.

You must use your EMICH EMAIL ADDRESS on the survey to allow WCHD to identify you as affiliated with Eastern.

Other options for vaccination

Under a new federal program, Meijer and Rite Aid are now offering COVID-19 vaccines. Rite Aid offers vaccines to adults 65 and older and Meijer offers vaccines to anyone currently eligible under State of Michigan guidance. Both organizations have online registration processes, and Meijer offers phone assistance:

[Meijer](#)

[Rite Aid eligibility survey](#)

You may learn more about the federal partnership [here](#).

As always, you may also contact your primary health care provider to request vaccination.

The WCHD is committed to vaccinating every person who is eligible in Washtenaw County and Eastern will continue to provide information about the process and availability as it becomes available. Thank you for your ongoing patience as we collaborate with the WCHD to administer the vaccine to the EMU community. For questions email the Dean of Students at emu_deanofstudents@emich.edu.