

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Email sent March 9, 2021

To students, faculty, and staff:

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

Vaccination priority groups

The State of Michigan has outlined the strategy for vaccine prioritization that is used by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) to allocate and administer vaccines. This guidance has changed and will continue to change as information, and vaccine availability, evolves. Further, it is understood that counties may need to adapt the vaccination priority groups based on local needs.

The Michigan Vaccination phases and priority groups are broken down as follows:

*Currently eligible to receive the vaccine

Phase 1A*

Priority One: Group A, B, C, D

Priority Two: Group A, B

Priority Three: Group A, B, C

Phase 1B

Group A*, B*, C

Phase 1C

Group A*, B* (age 50 and up), C*

Phase 2

The phases, priorities, and groups are specific and are not necessarily being called for vaccination in chronological order. The Washtenaw County Health Department evaluates the data on the number of positive cases in specific populations, prevalence of cases in identified clusters, and other criteria when determining prioritization of groups. For example, they may prioritize Phase 1C-Group A over Phase 1B-Group C to get the vaccine.

The [State of Michigan COVID-19 Vaccination Priority Guidance](#) is an excellent resource that provides a detailed description of the vaccination phases and priority groups effective March 3, 2021.

The MDHHS announced on March 3, 2021 that it is expanding vaccination eligibility as follows:

Starting Monday, March 8: Part of Phase 1C Groups B and C

- Vaccination of individuals age 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities
- Vaccination of caregiver family members and guardians age 16 and older who care for children with special health care needs

Starting Monday, March 22: Part of Phase 2

- Vaccination of all individuals 50 and older

Vaccination through the WCHD

Given that there are now three safe and effective vaccines that will be available in Michigan and in Washtenaw County, the WCHD will expand the number of appointments that will be available as more vaccine is received.

The WCHD is working to vaccinate any current EMU employee or student who is included in the eligible priority 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.**

Visit 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. With the move by the MDHHS to increase vaccination eligibility beginning March 3, the WCHD has indicated that appointments likely will not be available right away for those newly eligible, as they continue to administer the vaccine to individuals in the initial priority groups.

Eastern will continue to provide updates about the vaccination process and vaccine availability as new information 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.