

Student Health Services (SHS) continues to offer Tele-Health/Triage services to students.

Please contact us at medicalSHS@pasadena.edu or call us at 626-585-7244 (messages only).

We will respond to your inquiry during our business hours, Monday – Thursday 8:30a-4:30p, Friday 8:30a-12:30p.

Are You Feeling Confused About Who is Eligible for COVID Vaccine?

Join the club. The rules of the road keep changing before the ink is dry. The best you can do is keep checking the L.A. County and Pasadena vaccine allocation links at the end of this update. The L.A. Times reported that the state is looking at shifting to vaccine [allocation on the basis of age](#) rather than occupational risk. Pasadena Public Health will be running another drive-thru COVID vaccination clinic on 1/28/2021 but if you don't have an appointment from them, don't go – they already have their standby list of eligible persons in case there is left-over vaccine. The campus will continue to pass along actionable information on vaccination as it becomes known.

Don't let the lifting of "Safer-at-Home" make you think it's a safe world out there. It is true we were averaging 15,000 new cases a day at our peak and we are down to ~10,500 per day but we will likely need to be below ~2,500 cases/day to move from purple to red even with some relaxed guidelines that have been proposed. It's great to have a test positivity rate of 12-13% when we were at 21% until you recall we were at 3.4% in early November.

On the Verge of a Game-Changing Vaccine?

Johnson & Johnson's phase 3 trial of their [one dose viral vector COVID vaccine](#) started in September 2020 and is due to conclude in 1-2 weeks. Early information shows that 90% of vaccinated participants produced neutralizing antibody, something that happened in only 60% of Pfizer and Moderna participants after their first dose. If J&J's one dose is even moderately effective it could become the vaccine of choice for the world. When facing an epidemic, the ability to protect people with the least effort is a huge advantage.

J&J hedged its bets by also starting a second phase 3 trial in November using 2 doses given 57 days apart.

Even a 50% Effective COVID Vaccine Could be a Game-Changer

Sinovac's 2-dose killed virus vaccine, CoronaVac, has an efficacy of 50.4% based on the latest data which is underwhelming compared to the 95% efficacy of Pfizer and Moderna. What you need to consider is that CoronaVac's safety data looks good and that side effects appear to be few and mild. While up to ~50% of vaccinated persons become infected with COVID, severe COVID illness appears to be eliminated for vaccinated persons. For any country with a raging outbreak, this would be a very good outcome.

If the Morality of Vaccine Distribution Doesn't Move You, Maybe the Economics Will

The International Chamber of Commerce can tell us that [equitable distribution of COVID vaccines](#) is in every country's economic self-interest. At the extreme, if wealthy countries fully vaccinated by mid-2021 and poor countries were largely shut out, the loss to the global economy would exceed \$9 trillion. In the more likely scenario of wealthy countries vaccinating half their population by the end of 2021, the economic loss would be \$1.8-\$3.8 trillion, with half of that loss in wealthy countries. A continuing pandemic in poor countries will likely be worst for industries that are especially dependent on suppliers around the world (think automotive, textile, construction and retail). Of the \$18 trillion worth of goods that were traded last year, "intermediate goods" (parts shipped to be put in other products) represented \$11 trillion.

Biden has [reinstated the American ties](#) with the World Health Organization (WHO) and has stated an intention to join Covax. Covax was formed by the WHO to provide innovative and equitable access to COVID vaccine around the world. Ultimately, purchasing vaccines for the developing world is not an act of generosity by the world's richest nations. It is an essential investment for governments to make to revive their domestic economies.

It seems reasonable to assume that the economic effects of vaccination access between the "haves" and the "have-nots" on the international level will also be seen on the national, state and local levels.

Some More COVID Vaccine FAQs

[What if there are long term effects of the vaccine we don't know about yet?](#)

Safety data has been collected ever since phase 1 clinical trials began in March 2020 for Moderna and April 2020 for Pfizer and will continue to be collected on trial participants for years to come. Historically, ill-effects of vaccines,

especially when given in large numbers, tend to show up within months. At the same time we know that [many persons continue to have significant residual symptoms](#) and pulmonary deficits after their COVID illness and we do not yet know if or when those issues will resolve.

[Do I need the vaccine if I have already had COVID?](#)

Yes. While we think infection makes you immune, we don't know how long it lasts. While re-infection with COVID is rare, it does happen and we hope the vaccine can prevent reinfection. If you got treated with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent serum, then you should wait 90 days after those treatments to vaccinate.

Wednesday Funny



It reminds me of how our COVID case rate is past its recent peak – except L.A. County has more houses that can still burn.

Adapted from <https://voicesofmontereybay.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/fire-passed-peak.jpg>

Basic Preventive Measures

Help more people live to see and hug their family and friends outside their household again:

- Continue to limit your close contact to people within your household.
- Use social distancing, wear a mask (or two), and choose outside or other increased ventilation when you leave your house for essential purposes.
- Isolate/quarantine when indicated (see below) and wash your hands.

Quick Links to Resources

- If you are looking for a test because you had close contact with a suspected/confirmed case, you need to quarantine: ph.lacounty.gov/covidquarantine (instructions changed 12/17/2020)
- If you are looking for a test because you have symptoms, you need to isolate: ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation
- Free testing by appointment (walk-up and drive-up) <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/> - use a laptop or better for easier surfing
- Testing links at Pasadena Public Health: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/covid-19-testing-info/>
- To check L.A.C. DPH vaccine eligibility: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/vaccine/allocation/>
- To check Pasadena PHD vaccine eligibility: <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/covid-19-vaccine/#vaccine-allocation-phases>

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