

# COVID-19 Update

## August 26: NM Workforce Vaccination Requirement, Updated NM Guidelines and Vaccination Locations for Patients

*Today's issue features Northwestern Medicine's requirement for COVID-19 vaccination, as well as updated information about NM guidelines. It also includes information to assist patients in finding the most convenient location to receive the vaccine.*

### NM WORKFORCE VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Your health and the health of your family, our patients and the community remain NM's top priority. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, NM has implemented safety protocols to align with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Nearly 80% of NM physicians and staff are now vaccinated. However, given the spread of the COVID-19 delta variant, and its risk to those with underlying medical conditions and children under 12 years of age who are not yet eligible to receive a vaccine:

- Effective October 31, 2021, NM physicians and staff will be required to have received the COVID-19 vaccination or have submitted a request for a medical or religious exemption. NM physicians and staff without documentation of vaccination will be required to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing and wear a mask in NM facilities.
- Effective January 1, 2022, COVID-19 vaccination will be a requirement of NM employment, except for those with an approved medical or religious accommodation.

Please refer to these [FAQs](#) to help answer questions. Additional information will be posted to the COVID-19 main page on [Physician Forum](#) and [NM Interactive](#) in the coming days. For vaccination locations, please visit the [Workforce Vaccine page on Physician Forum](#) and [NMI](#), or the [COVID-19 Vaccines page on nm.org](#).

### UPDATED NM GUIDELINES

Based on the indoor mask mandates implemented by the Chicago and Cook County Departments of Health, masks must be worn indoors in all NM locations regardless of vaccination status.

Staff can remove masks in settings that are not open to the public, remain in that location and maintain at least 6 feet from all other individuals. For example, if a physician or employee is sitting in a work space 6 feet away from another individual, they may remove their masks.

For all meetings and events, beginning Monday through at least the end of September:

- Department meetings should be virtual
- NM sponsored business travel should be postponed
- Social events should be canceled

### **VACCINATION LOCATIONS FOR PATIENTS**

To assist patients in finding the most convenient location to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the [State of Illinois Vaccination Location page](#). The page includes information about statewide vaccination clinics and a link to [vaccines.gov](#), which allows you to search by ZIP code and vaccine type.

### **NM Immediate Care Centers**

Patients 18 and older may receive the one-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine on a walk-in basis only on Wednesdays and Saturdays during operating hours at the following [NM Immediate Care Centers](#):

- Aurora
- Bartlett
- Bloomingdale
- Crystal Lake
- Deerfield
- Evanston
- Glen Ellyn
- Glenview
- Gurnee
- Huntley
- Lakeview
- McHenry
- Naperville
- River North
- South Loop
- St. Charles
- Streeterville
- Vernon Hills
- West Loop
- Wheaton

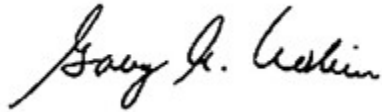
### **NM Primary Care sites**

The two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is available at select [NM Primary Care sites](#). Vaccinations are offered to those 12 and over at most locations. All Primary Care locations require an appointment, and you must be a current NM patient. The patient does not need to be a patient of the clinic where the vaccine is offered, and a physician's order is not required to schedule an appointment. Please instruct your patients to schedule the vaccine by calling the location where they wish to receive the vaccine.

For the latest information regarding vaccination locations for both patients and staff, please visit the [COVID-19 Vaccines page](#) on nm.org.

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The Chicago metropolitan area continues to have high rates of community transmission of COVID-19 and increasing hospitalizations. The majority of those hospitalized are unvaccinated. Now that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is FDA approved, please encourage those who were vaccine-hesitant to get vaccinated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gary A. Noskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Noskin" clearly legible.

**Gary A. Noskin, MD**  
Senior Vice President, Quality  
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare  
Chief Medical Officer  
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