

# COVID-19 Update

## June 3: New Vaccination Options and Revised Masking Guidelines

*Today's issue features the transition to regional vaccination clinics and new masking guidelines that were implemented on June 1 in Northwestern Medicine administrative buildings for fully vaccinated individuals.*

### **PATIENT AND WORKFORCE VACCINATION STATUS**

As of June 2, approximately 130,000 patients and employees have been fully vaccinated at NM. As we continue to support ongoing vaccination efforts, NM vaccination clinics are transitioning to a model that will support both patients and employees by offering more convenient locations and walk-in options.

Starting next week, patients and NM employees can receive their COVID-19 vaccination at any NM Immediate Care Center without an appointment. Vaccines are also available for NM employees at four NM Occupational Health clinics, as outlined below:

#### **For NM patients, employees and physicians**

**Beginning June 7**, those 18 and older can receive the **Johnson & Johnson** COVID-19 vaccine at any **NM Immediate Care Center** across the health system without an appointment. Visit the **Locations page on [nm.org](https://www.nm.org)** to find an Immediate Care location near you and hours of operation.

#### **For NM employees and physicians**

**Beginning June 8**, those who are 16 and older can make an appointment to receive the **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 vaccine series at **four NM Occupational Health clinics**. A parent or guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18. Please note that walk-in vaccination is not an option; staff should call the appropriate location to schedule an appointment after June 7:

- Lake Forest Hospital — 312.694.0800
- Delnor Hospital — 312.694.0800
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital — 312.926.8282
- McHenry Hospital — 815.759.4224

During this transition, patients 16 and older can continue to schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments through their MyNM account or by calling the **COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 312.694.6600**. However, appointment offerings may be limited as this transition occurs.

As additional information becomes available, it will be provided on the COVID-19 pages on **Physician Forum** and **NM Interactive** (login required) for physicians and staff, and on **[nm.org](https://www.nm.org)** for patients.

## **MASKING GUIDELINES IN NM ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS MODIFIED FOR FULLY VACCINATED**

Throughout the pandemic, NM has followed policies based on science and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Therefore, effective June 1, NM no longer requires fully vaccinated individuals to wear masks in administrative buildings or locations that do not provide patient care.

Removing your mask in these areas should align with both your vaccination status and personal comfort level as we adjust to the changes recommended by CDC and supported by science.

### **Where masks still need to be worn**

Masks continue to be required in locations where direct patient care is provided, such as patient care units, physician offices and diagnostic centers. Employees who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks at all times while in NM buildings.

As the CDC and public health officials modify guidelines, NM will review and update its policies accordingly. For more information about PPE guidelines, please visit the PPE Resources page on [Physician Forum](#) and [NMI](#) (login required).

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We are continuing to observe a reduction in the rate of new infections and fewer hospitalizations due to COVID-19 across NM. This is due, in large part, to the effectiveness of the current vaccines. With vaccine supply readily available, please encourage your patients to get vaccinated.



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