

# COVID-19 Update

## March 18: Patient Vaccination Update, CDC Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals, and Epic AVS Changes

*Today's issue features an update on patient vaccinations and guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding fully vaccinated individuals. It also includes an update on changes to the Epic After Visit Summary.*

### PATIENT VACCINATION UPDATE

Northwestern Medicine has begun to send invitations to established patients ages 60 to 64 who have at least one high-risk condition as defined by the Illinois Department of Public Health. For a complete list of qualifying conditions, applicable clinical criteria and diagnosis codes, please visit the [Patient Vaccine Toolkit on Physician Forum](#) or [NM Interactive](#) (login required).

If you believe a patient should have been identified as high-risk and invited to schedule a vaccine, please ensure the patient's chart has been updated to reflect one of the qualifying criteria. Patients are being scheduled as quickly as possible, but eligible patients outnumber available doses. Patients are encouraged to schedule an appointment at any available vaccination site. A comprehensive list of Illinois vaccination locations can be found [here](#).

### CDC GUIDELINES FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

The CDC has released [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#). **Please note that the following information does not apply to healthcare settings, and all NM policies regarding universal masking, physical distancing and on-site meeting capacities remain in place.** At NM facilities, physicians and staff should continue to follow best practices, as well as the [PPE guidelines](#) posted on Physician Forum and [NMI](#).

A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. How long vaccine protection lasts and how much vaccines protect against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants are still under investigation. Until more is known and vaccination coverage increases, some prevention measures will continue to be necessary for all people, regardless of vaccination status.

According to the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated **two weeks after:**

- Their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine
- A single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

**Fully vaccinated people can:**

- Visit indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Visit indoors with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic

**For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:**

- Take precautions in public, like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at **increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease** or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium and large in-person gatherings
- Get tested if experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms**
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements

NM employees and physicians who are fully vaccinated must continue to follow NM COVID-19 safety protocols while at work.

The CDC will continue to evaluate and update public health recommendations for vaccinated people as more information becomes available. To learn more, visit the **Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People** page on the CDC website.

**CDC LINKS REMOVED FROM EPIC AVS**

The links to the CDC COVID-19 documents found in the Epic After Visit Summary (AVS) are no longer supported by the CDC. As a result, the CDC links will no longer be available as an AVS option, effective Thursday, March 18. Epic users will continue to have access to the automated AVS information for any patient who has been tested for COVID-19. Krames documents are now available as well.

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Thank you for your continued commitment to our *Patients First* mission and heroic care of patients throughout this pandemic. Please remind your patients that despite being vaccinated, it is still necessary to follow public health guidelines.



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