

COVID-19 Update

March 4: MyNM COVID-19 Messaging Update, Vaccine-Related Axillary Adenopathy and NM Vaccination Cards

Today's issue features an update on MyNM COVID-19 messaging. It also includes an overview of vaccine-related axillary adenopathy from Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center Medical Director and Diagnostic Radiologist Sarah (Sally) Maier Friedewald, MD, FACR, as well as information on how to access NM vaccination cards on NM Interactive (NMI).

MYNM MESSAGING UPDATE

As the volume of patient-to-provider communications related to COVID-19 continues to grow, new message subjects will be available for selection by patients in MyNM. To allow for COVID-19-related messages to be more efficiently identified and managed by the care team, COVID-19 General Information and COVID-19 Vaccination Information will be added to the drop-down option on Monday, March 8.

All existing message routing will remain as is and file to existing folders as all messages currently do today. The Subject column header within the Epic In Basket folder can be sorted to segment out the COVID-19-related messages (see image below). We will continue to use and update language directing patients to the COVID-19 FAQ on the [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) to enable questions to be answered without the need to send a message to their care team.



Doctor, Test Five, MD's In Basket > Pt Advice Request 15 unread, 33 total

Status	Msg Date	Msg Time	Patient	Attachment?	Subject	Phone
Read	02/22/2021	10:48 AM	Zztest, Matt [111011393579]		COVID-19 General Information	630-778-1122
New	02/22/2021	10:48 AM	Zztest, Matt [111011393579]		COVID-19 Vaccination Information	630-778-1122

Updated patient COVID-19 infection and vaccination information can be found on the [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) on nm.org. Physician and provider COVID-19 infection and vaccine resources are available on the [COVID-19 page on Physician Forum](#) and the [COVID-19 page on NM Interactive](#) (login required).

VACCINE-RELATED AXILLARY ADENOPATHY AND MAMMOGRAMS

Higher rates of axillary adenopathy have been detected on mammography after COVID-19 vaccinations when compared to other types of vaccines (influenza, HPV) ipsilateral to the site of injection. Both Moderna and Pfizer have reported symptomatic axillary adenopathy as an adverse event in study recipients.

Moderna

- First dose: 11.6% of vaccinated patients versus 5.0% placebo
- Second dose: 16% of vaccinated patients versus 4.3% placebo

Pfizer

- Not specified in relation to dose administration
- 64 vaccinated patients versus six placebo patients

Since this is a relatively rare event and that a delay in cancer diagnosis is a greater risk to the patient, Northwestern Medicine will not be altering a patient's scheduled screening examinations based on timing of the vaccination. As recommended by the Society of Breast Imaging (SBI), if unilateral axillary adenopathy is detected on a screening mammogram and the patient has been recently vaccinated, we will ask the patient to return for diagnostic imaging and possibly follow-up imaging to ensure resolution. If adenopathy does not resolve three months after the second dose of the vaccine, tissue sampling may be required to exclude malignancy.

Because there has been significant media attention, you may wish to inform your patients of this potential issue. The following information will be discussed with all patients seeking to make an appointment for a breast screening examination at an NM facility:

"As you may have heard in the news, COVID-19 vaccination occasionally results in temporary swelling of the lymph nodes under the arm on the side where you got your vaccine. This rarely shows up on a mammogram or other breast screening tests. But if it does, you may need additional imaging and possibly follow-up imaging to make sure that the swelling goes away.


At Northwestern Medicine, we are NOT recommending postponing screening examinations. However, if you are concerned about the possible need for additional imaging, you may choose to schedule your screening appointment for at least four weeks after your second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine."

If you have additional questions, contact Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center Medical Director and Diagnostic Radiologist **Sarah (Sally) Maier Friedewald, MD**, at 312.472.0460.

VACCINATION CARDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR NM PHYSICIANS

NM is now offering printable vaccination cards to all NM physicians and employees who were vaccinated at an NM facility. Simply log in to NMI using your NM credentials and follow this path to the Safety Net Admin page: Applications > Safety & Risk > **Safety Net Admin** (login required). Then click on the COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card under published reports, which will initiate the creation of a digital version of your vaccination card with all of your information pre-populated. You can either save the file or print directly from the screen.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our *Patients First* mission and care of patients throughout this pandemic.



Gary A. Noskin, MD

Senior Vice President, Quality
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare
Chief Medical Officer
Northwestern Memorial Hospital