

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

COVID-19 VACCINATION IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS



Audience: COVID-19 Vaccine Administrators/Leads, Emergency Department Leaders, Pharmacy Leaders

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COVID-19 Response Team Owner: Vaccine Operations Workgroup

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To support the health and safety of our colleagues and communities, Trinity Health will offer COVID-19 vaccinations to all eligible individuals within our emergency departments. This guidance is designed to support set-up and administration of COVID-19 vaccinations in that setting.

Resources:

- This [standard operational workflow](#) will be helpful as you develop and implement the process within your Emergency Department (ED).
- Ensure your ED staff fully understand why it is important to support this effort. Use [these FAQs](#) to aid in those conversations.

Thank you for your leadership.

Purpose of COVID-19 vaccination in Emergency Departments

Emergency Department-based vaccination programs can play a critical public health role in efforts to curb the impact of SARS CoV-2 in local communities and across the nation. Emergency Departments (ED) have been called upon to function in a safety net capacity and have played a key public health role for a number of public health initiatives in the past³. Some examples include the administration of screening and brief intervention for drug and alcohol use,⁴ HIV screening programs,^{5,6} and tetanus immunization.⁷ More recently ED-based influenza vaccination programs have been described and recommended by a number of organizations.^{8,9,10} Rising ED volumes continue to include a disproportionately increasing underserved, uninsured and minority population that is less likely to have had adequate preventive and primary care access and are more likely to be under-immunized. This population has also been disproportionately impacted by SARS-CoV-2 infections, resulting in increased morbidity and mortality.¹¹ For these reasons, EDs represent an important public health opportunity for COVID-19 vaccination programs.

ED-based preventive interventions will be site specific. Each site will make individual decision regarding how to operationalize the vaccination processes. These decisions will take into consideration local resources, local demand and the process to refer patients for their second vaccination when

appropriate. Increasing the percentage of our vaccinated population will have many benefits for all Trinity Health Ministries.

Reference: <https://www.acep.org/contentassets/0d59136e8d4f48e19019a3874c0c5f80/acep-ed-covid-vaccine-toolkit.4.19.pdf>

