

*This is a compilation of Q&A from the trainings that have been held, questions that have come in from COVID19questions@bop.gov, and elsewhere. Questions that are new or updated from previous versions have been **highlighted**.*

Staff Related

Initially it was said that staff would have to register in order to receive the vaccine. Is that still the case? I had seen in the previous presentation that that process would no longer be required. **No, previous information has changed and employees do not need to register in VAMS in advance. Due to the BOP's unique environment, the BOP will not be using the scheduling component of VAMS, nor will vaccine recipients/BOP employees create individual VAMS accounts. BOP Employee COVID-19 vaccines will be scheduled at the institution's discretion.**

How do we notify or handle BOP staff that are out on leave? Are we to contact them and set up a time they can come to the institution and receive their vaccine? What happens if the staff member is on leave when their 2nd dose is needed? **If a staff member is out when the first dose is offered, it can still be offered at a later date. If they get the first and they are on leave for the second, they should receive the dose as soon as possible upon their return back to work. The vaccine window for the second dose is 17-21 days.**

Is there any guidance on minimizing the anticipated waste caused by staff who get the first dose but not the second dose due to not being scheduled for work on the 21st day? **All attempts should be made to administer the second dose within the required timeframe.**

In the news they have been reporting some pretty significant side effects from the different vaccines, including Pfizer. Is there a concern for mass sick leave? **Reported side effects are similar to the flu vaccine. The head of Occupational Safety and Health does not anticipate a large issue with staff feeling ill after their immunization.**

If the Vaccine does cause some initial side effects, is Administrative leave going to be considered? **No. If staff don't feel well enough to work after vaccination, follow the BOP guidance on sick leave.**

Should staff continue to come to work if experiencing symptoms from post-vaccination response? **If symptoms would not otherwise prevent an employee from reporting to work, yes.**

In the event a staff member gets the first dose here, but retires before the second dose, will they be authorized to come back after retirement to get the second dose here? **Yes, if staff retires after their first dose, they may return to the institution where they got their first dose in order to get their second.**

If high risk staff on TJMs or on weather and safety leave receive the vaccine, will they be able to return to work? If staff on TJM due to COVID risk factors refuse, will at some point a fitness for duty be a consideration? [Staff who are on COVID-19 related TJMs or on Weather & Safety leave will be returned to regular duty one month after their second dose of vaccine has been received. However, all staff have to continue to exercise usual safety precautions to include hand washing, wearing of face covering, and keeping distance from others until further direction is received from the CDC.](#)

Can staff on TJM receive the vaccine? [Yes, HR should notify every staff person on COVID-19 related TJM when the vaccine becomes available and allow them the opportunity to receive the vaccine.](#)

Can staff choose which vaccine they receive? [We cannot ensure which vaccine an institution will receive.](#)

Will this vaccine be mandatory for PHS officers? [At this time, the vaccine will not be mandatory for PHS officers. Guidance will be provided by Commissioned Corps Headquarters and the BOP liaison if there are any changes.](#)

If staff are TDY, will they receive their dose at their TDY institution? [Due to the need to receive the second dose of the same manufacturer, individuals are recommended to receive all doses at their home institution.](#)

In such case, where you are getting vaccine from other than home institution, that particular staff will have VAMS file in both institution? (I.e. home and TDY institution VAMS?) [Due to the need to receive the second dose of the same manufacturer, individuals are recommended to receive all doses at their home institution.](#)

Can an employee from a nearby institution volunteer at a vaccination site and possibly get vaccinated also. [This would have to be agreed upon between institution Wardens as a TDY. Due to the need to receive the second dose of the same manufacturer, individuals are recommended to receive all doses at their home institution.](#)

UPDATED 4/15/2021 - Will the vaccine be offered to BOP contractors? [Yes. All contractors working in a BOP-managed institution or administrative office may be vaccinated.](#)

What guidelines should be used to administer to staff, especially if there's a limited supply e.g. staff with underlying conditions or a lottery system? [Staff should be offered vaccine on a first come, first served basis. Eventually there will be adequate supply of vaccine to ensure all who want vaccine will be able to get vaccine.](#)

What should an institution do if a staff person gets their first dose at another location (health department, VA location, military base, etc.)?

The staff person should bring in a copy of their vaccination card to be filed in their employee health record. Employees who receive their 1st dose at another location should go back to that same location to receive their 2nd dose.