Is the college providing assistance to counties, pharmacies, healthcare organizations regarding COVID-19 vaccinations?

The College of Pharmacy is supporting a number of efforts related to COVID-19 vaccinations, including:

- encouraging faculty, staff and students to volunteer to be part of the University’s Medical Reserve Corps to further support vaccination efforts
- offering a self-paced ACPE-accredited continuing education (CE) program for pharmacists, training them to provide vaccinations, including COVID-19 vaccinations
- offering a self-paced ACPE-accredited continuing education (CE) program for pharmacy technicians, training technicians to administer COVID-19 vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist
- having clinical faculty and residents administer vaccinations in their clinical setting and/or partnering with external organizations to further support vaccination efforts
- having students support vaccination efforts with our partners via educational programs, service contracts and co-curricular volunteer opportunities
- partnering with others in the University to develop materials to provide education to communities about the COVID-19 vaccinations
- collaborating with other health science schools to support mobile health clinics aimed at supporting communities by providing COVID-19 education and offering vaccination programs
How will/can students be involved in COVID-19 vaccination efforts?

- Students can participate in COVID-19 vaccination efforts as part of required IPPEs/APPEs, directed studies or elective IPPEs, Volunteer Campus Life Programs activities in the College or within the University (i.e., PNC), or volunteering for the Medical Reserve Corps.

Can student organizations participate in community COVID-19 education and/or vaccination efforts?

- Yes, students can participate in community education and other COVID-19 vaccination efforts via our Campus Life Program, via the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic or via Mobile Health Initiatives when requested.
- All covid-19 vaccination efforts through our Campus Life Program will require approval through the standard Campus Life Program process, available in the Canvas CoP Community Outreach CLP 2020-2021 site. Student leaders should check this site for any process updates.

I have heard students need to have 20 hrs of ACPE accredited training, I don’t think I did this amount of hours. Can I participate in vaccination efforts?

- After completing their P1 year of the Doctor of Pharmacy program, all PharmD students have received immunization training that is similar to ACPE-approved vaccination training programs. This training includes course work, and practice giving simulated and actual vaccinations. Each student receives a letter indicating they have completed the necessary immunization training permitting them to administer vaccinations. Students can request another copy of this letter, if needed, as evidence for your organization. The MN Board of Pharmacy recognizes that pharmacy interns are trained to administer vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccinations under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist. While this is supported by regulations, the executive director of the Board of Pharmacy will post information on this in the Board of Pharmacy COVID FAQ.
summary, P2, P3 and P4 students have received immunization training. All students participating in COVID-19 vaccination efforts should also complete the four MDH COVID training modules.

- The P1 class will be taking this coursework this spring and at this time are not able to administer vaccinations, unless they are a pharmacy technician and have taken a ACPE-accredited CE training program regarding vaccinations. P1 students can assist with non-intern and/or non-technician activities.

Is there training that I need to complete to be able to participate in administering vaccinations?

All students participating in COVID-19 vaccination efforts should complete the four MDH COVID training modules. Some sites may require this when a student agrees to support vaccination efforts.

If I am an APPE or IPPE student on rotation, can my preceptor ask me to participate in administering vaccinations?

- Yes, APPE students may participate in various aspects of administering vaccinations. The amount of effort students should spend in vaccination efforts depends on a combination of factors. These include;
  - what APPE rotation they are assigned to;
  - the ability of entrustable professional activities (EPAs) on the rotation to still be evaluated at rotation’s end;
  - ability for the administration to be precepted by a pharmacist; and
  - student and preceptor comfort with participation as a part of the APPE or IPPE.

If there are concerns or questions, please contact Dr. Andy Traynor at tray0015@umn.edu.
Who will provide the PPE if I am participating in vaccination efforts?

- The College of Pharmacy has requested that the organization coordinating and/or offering the vaccinations provide PPE to all individuals from the College of Pharmacy who are participating in these activities at the given or with the given organization.

When will PharmD students receive COVID-19 vaccinations?

This is an evolving topic. Please check your email regularly. Currently, we know of three options for some students to get a vaccine.

1. Your place of employment or your clinical rotation site may offer the vaccine to you. If you are offered a COVID-19 at one of these two sites, we encourage you to take the opportunity to be vaccinated, if you choose. Your willingness to be vaccinated is voluntary and many sites will use a consent form. Please note, not all students may be offered the vaccine at a given site, as site protocols and criteria vary (e.g. the length of time on rotation and/or duties being performed may affect eligibility for the vaccine at the site).

2. M Health Fairview is willing to offer COVID-19 vaccine to the following groups of pharmacy students;
   - Students placed with M Health Fairview for rotations (Fairview was already planning on offering to you or has already)

Dr. Traynor has shared a spreadsheet of student names with M Health Fairview’s Education Department that meet criteria b. An email will be sent to you with directions for scheduling and receiving the first dose of the vaccine. This is an offer, not an obligation. At this time, you can choose if, when, and where you want to receive the vaccine.
Not everyone eligible will receive the email at the same time. You will receive the email as the administration times they schedule approach your qualifying rotation time (e.g. 1st years doing community rotations in March will likely be invited to February administration times as they are scheduled). Again, the choice to accept this offer is yours. If accepting, you will need to sign up on a schedule as the email will outline. If another offer for a vaccine presents to you prior to one from M Health Fairview, you are encouraged to get the vaccine as soon as you can. We are hopeful we will have the vaccine on campus soon.

Please note that M Health Fairview vaccine clinic locations are in the Twin Cities, and you will receive the offer regardless of your campus location. Make sure you can return to the site of the first dose for the second dose.

3. Boynton Health has begun receiving COVID-19 vaccine and is following the priority guidelines from MDH and, with the approval of the campus Public Health Officer, applying those priorities to the University population.

Students in a category eligible for vaccination at this time (first and second level Phase 1A priority groups) have been emailed with instructions. Additional questions? See Boynton Health’s COVID Vaccination Page for more information, including a helpful FAQ.

Is it mandatory that I receive a COVID-19 vaccination?

● No, COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered to students but it is not mandatory that you receive a vaccine. At this time, we are not aware of any experiential education sites requiring students to get the vaccine. Though there is precedent with sites requiring other vaccines, the ability of employers to require this is unclear based on the vaccines status as “Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). We are assuming sites should not mandate students receive COVID-19 vaccines, however sites may have procedures in place to modify work requirements for those vaccinated vs. those not vaccinated. If you
are told by any site the vaccine is required, please alert Dr. Traynor (tray0015@umn.edu) if we are told otherwise, we will let you know.

Do I have to return to the same site where I got my first dose of vaccine to get my second dose?

- Sites administering may require students to return to the same site of vaccination for the second dose at the appropriate time, based on the vaccine they are offered. Vaccine supply and distribution is challenging and sites are likely prioritizing the ability to get two doses to people they immunize. Before accepting the first dose, make sure you can return to the same site for the second dose.

- Preceptors and faculty will be made aware of the potential need for students to return to the site where students received their first dose of the vaccine. However, experiential hours must be made up for any missed time from the rotation. How and when to make this time up will depend on what works for you and your preceptor. Faculty will communicate expectations for making up missed class time, when applicable.

Does the College of Pharmacy need to know if I get the COVID vaccine?

- We would like to track how many of our students are being immunized. Please keep any documentation (e.g. vaccination record card) related to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. When you receive an immunization, we are asking you to submit it to Boynton just like you submit your influenza vaccination information via the following link; https://z.umn.edu/HSC19vaccine