

Frequently Asked Questions:

Worksite Flu and COVID-19 Shot Clinics

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General Questions

Where can I find basic information about the flu?

These government websites provide information:

- [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\) flu basics](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services flu resources](#)
- [U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 resources](#)

Be sure to follow the safety protocols your agency/worksites has in place.

Employee Clinics

What types of vaccines are used?

There are a couple ways vaccines are delivered:

- [Flu Shot](#): an inactivated influenza vaccine (containing the killed virus) that is given with a needle.
- [Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine](#): a live, attenuated influenza flu vaccine that is sprayed into the nose.
- [Senior Dose](#): for adults 65 years and older, the CDC preferentially recommends a senior dose influenza vaccine that is given with a needle.
- [COVID-19 Booster](#): a messenger RNA vaccine that is given with a needle.

What vaccines are available at our worksite clinics?

The Flu Shot, Senior Dose, and COVID-19 Booster are the primary vaccines available at our worksite clinics; a limited supply of the Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine may be available. If you have any questions about whether you should get vaccinated against influenza or COVID-19, consult your health care provider. Additional information about [flu vaccines](#) and [COVID-19 vaccines](#) is also available from the CDC.

What are my options if I miss our worksite vaccination clinics?

Seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available through your primary care clinic and many in-network convenience clinics or pharmacies. Prior to attending a community vaccination event (i.e., pharmacy or grocery store), call the number on the back of your insurance ID card to confirm it is covered at that location.

What flu viruses does this season's vaccine protect against in the U.S.?

There are many flu viruses that constantly change. The composition of flu vaccines for the U.S. is reviewed annually and updated to match circulating flu viruses. Flu vaccines this year protect against the three strains that the US FDA believes will be most common. For additional information, visit the [CDC's flu website](#).

What COVID-19 variant does this season's vaccine protect against in the U.S.?

The SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes the COVID-19 disease, is constantly changing and evolving leading to new variants that continue to spread and cause illness that can be severe. The composition of COVID-19 vaccines for the U.S. is reviewed annually and updated to match circulating strains. COVID-19 vaccines this year protect against the strain that the US FDA believes will be most common. For additional information, visit the [CDC's COVID-19 website](#).

Is the seasonal flu vaccine produced using eggs?

The Flu Shot being provided at worksite clinics is made using a cell-based process, and no eggs are used in the manufacture of this vaccine. The Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine and the Senior Dose are manufactured using an egg-based process and may contain a small amount of egg protein. However, people with an egg allergy may receive any flu vaccine, including those manufactured with an egg-based process, as long as the vaccine is appropriate for their age. For additional information about egg allergies and flu vaccines, visit the CDC's [flu vaccine website for people with egg allergies](#).

Are thimerosal-free vaccines available?

The vaccines offered at our clinics are thimerosal-free.

Will latex products be used at our employee clinics?

No latex products are used at our employee clinics.

Where can I get vaccinations at work?

Organizations participating with SEGIP choose whether to offer Worksite Vaccination Clinics. Some locations are open to employees only while others welcome employees and their immediate family members.

- [Use the search tool on SEGIP's website to find a clinic that works for you.](#)
- **Worksite Specific Clinics** are for all employees who work in the building. Be aware of your building's health and safety guidelines.
- All **Employee and Family Clinics** are open to any employee with SEGIP coverage and their family members. Please be sure to follow health and safety guidelines required for the site you select.

If you attend any worksite clinic, you may have to check in at security or an information area.

Will I have to pay for my worksite vaccinations?

Employees with the Minnesota Advantage Health Plan get the vaccinations for free. Bring your current Blue Cross or HealthPartners ID card. If you have other insurance, Homeland Health does accept all major health insurances and most smaller health plans. You can call Homeland Health at 877-746-8060 to make sure they accept the insurance.

If you do not have insurance, the Flu Shot will cost \$54, \$60 for a Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine, \$80 Senior-Dose, and \$215 for the COVID-19 Booster. Please bring the exact amount in cash or check. Nurses do not have change. Credit cards are not accepted.

Who Can Participate?

Are temporary employees eligible to attend clinics?

Yes, however, they need to have insurance that is accepted by Homeland Health or pay with cash or check. For those without acceptable insurance, the Flu Shot will cost \$54, \$60 for a Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine, \$80 Senior-Dose, and \$215 for the COVID-19 Booster. Please bring the exact amount of cash or check or your insurance card, if applicable.

Are new employees eligible?

New employees who have enrolled in the Minnesota Advantage Health Plan and have their insurance ID card are eligible. New employees who are not covered by insurance, the Flu Shot will cost \$54, \$60 for a Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine, \$80 Senior-Dose, and \$215 for the COVID-19 Booster. Please bring the exact amount of cash or check or your insurance card, if applicable.

Are family members allowed to participate?

Immediate family members of current employees can participate *only* at the All Employee and Family Clinics. If you attend any worksite clinic, you may have to check in at security or an information area

and follow health and safety guidelines for the location. No child under the age of 3 can receive a vaccination at our clinics; please take these children to your primary care provider.

If family members do not have coverage through the Minnesota Advantage Health Plan should check with Homeland Health to be sure they accept your insurance. Homeland Health does accept all major health insurances and most smaller health plans.

We are an educational facility. Can students participate?

No, our Worksite Vaccination Clinics are for employees only. Select clinics, listed as All Employee and Family Clinics, are also open to the immediate family members of employees. If you work at an educational facility, please encourage students to get their vaccine at their primary care provider or at a public vaccination clinic. Educational facilities that are interested in having Homeland Health conduct student vaccinations can contact Homeland Health directly about setting up a vaccination events separate from the state employee campaign.

Are clinics available to retirees?

No, we are not offering vaccinations to retirees. They can receive the shot through their primary care clinic or local pharmacy.

Since clinics are being offered during work time, what are the implications under Worker's Compensation in the event of an adverse reaction?

There is no Workers' Compensation liability for an adverse reaction to vaccinations, even when given in the workplace. Vaccination is a voluntary activity.

Bring Your Current Minnesota Advantage Health Plan ID

How do I know if my insurance card is an "Advantage" card?

The name of the state's health plan is the Minnesota Advantage Health Plan. Your plan administrator is Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota or HealthPartners. Your administrator provides you with your insurance card, and Advantage is listed on it.

I have misplaced my Minnesota Advantage Health Plan card. What should I do?

You can always access a copy of your insurance ID card through the Blue Cross or HealthPartners app. You can also log into their website and print a new card. Call the number below if you want a new card mailed to you.

- [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota](#): call 651-662-5090 or 800-262-0819
- [HealthPartners](#): call 952-883-7900 or 888-343-4404

I don't have a health insurance card; can someone vouch for me?

You will need your health insurance ID number for billing purposes. If you do not have a printed card, use

the app.

I know my health insurance ID number; is that good enough?

No, you will need your health insurance ID card to minimize errors during the billing process.

If you don't have your card, you'll have to pay with cash or a check to get the shot.

Getting the Shot

Who are the vaccinations administered by?

Blue Cross and HealthPartners contract with a service provider, Homeland Health Specialists, Inc. ("Homeland"). Homeland's Medical Director is licensed by the state of Minnesota and credentialed with plan administrators. All state employee workplace vaccination clinics are led by licensed Registered Nurses and follow federal and state of Minnesota regulations. All work is performed according to established medical protocols for vaccine administration, vaccine handling and storage, and emergency response.

Homeland operates under the supervision of its Medical Director, Sean P. Flood, M.D., MPH. Dr. Flood is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School and is Board certified in Family Practice, Preventative Medicine, and Occupational Medicine. Dr. Flood also holds a master's degree in public health. His career is focused on community and preventative medicine with the intent of fostering prevention and healthier lifestyles as primary strategies for promoting healthy communities.

Are the vaccines free at our worksite clinics?

It is free for employees who are covered by the Minnesota Advantage Health Plan. It may be free for people with other insurance. Homeland accepts all major insurances. People with other limited health insurance plans should call Homeland to make sure they accept the insurance. People who want to receive a vaccination will need to provide proof of insurance or pay with cash or check at the clinic.

What forms will I be asked to complete before being vaccinated?

You will complete a combined consent and insurance form. Complete this form ahead of time. It will make your time in the clinic go more smoothly. Bring your completed form and insurance card with you to the clinic.

Do I need to do anything to prepare for the vaccine?

Most often, the vaccine is a shot administered in the upper part of the arm. Wear clothing that will give easy access to your upper arm. After receiving your vaccine, stay nearby in the building for at least 15 minutes in case you experience any reactions.

Some state agencies have their own nurses on staff. Why don't we use them for the Worksite Vaccination Clinics?

Because these vaccinations are considered a covered preventive benefit under our health plans, the health plans are responsible for providing them for members. We use the service provider that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and HealthPartners contract with to administer the shot to employees statewide. Using state nurses would add to scheduling complexity and compensation/reimbursement and liability issues.