

January 19, 2021



Following is a transcript of the Weekly Update video published January 19, 2021 and sent to all TriHealth team members, physicians and leaders.

Hi Team –

I'm sharing my update this week with you by way of this video message to announce some key milestones in our fight against COVID, and to kick off this week's celebrations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his important legacy.

Sadly, our country's COVID battle continues to rage, with COVID cases and deaths across the U.S. again breaking daily records over the past week. However, on the local and regional front, the number of COVID hospitalizations remains relatively stable here at TriHealth, where cases have held steady between 140 to 180 since last November.

We also continue to capably and confidently manage through this third and final wave, still safely caring for all COVID patients within our hospitals and never turning a patient away, unlike many health systems within the region and across the nation. And as I've shared, we are well prepared to quickly flex up capacity and staffing, if a predicted holiday spike results in an increase in hospitalizations.

Today, I'm pleased to announce our new "*Vaccinated for You*," a community awareness and communications campaign to educate and motivate all of our patients and community members to get their COVID vaccine. Through this campaign, we'll feature team members and physicians who have received the vaccine, sharing their stories about why getting it was so important to them. And why is this important? It is simple... the community is looking to healthcare workers to be an example and to lead the way in reassuring the public of the vaccine's safety and effectiveness!

I just received my first dose, and my "why" is clear and simple! By getting vaccinated, I am trying to do my small part to **save lives, end suffering, and enable our healthcare industry and our amazing healthcare heroes to return to some level of normalcy.** As more and more people get their vaccines, evidence continues to show that these enormous benefits far outweigh any unseen, theoretical risks. This vaccine is **safe, effective,** and the **only way** to achieve the necessary herd immunity to end this tragic pandemic **once and for all!**

Be sure to check out this week's "*Vaccinated for You*" stories posted throughout the system, including on Bridge and our social media channels. You'll be inspired, motivated, and proud! New stories will be posted each week, and you can even share your own vaccine story on Bridge. And when you receive your second dose, we'll mark the occasion with this special "*Vaccinated for You*" button, which has been approved to wear at work throughout TriHealth. And we hope you'll also wear it with pride in the community to encourage others to get their vaccine!

Team – I am strongly encouraging those of you who have not yet signed up for your first dose to do so today. We just learned from Governor DeWine that all healthcare workers must have received their first dose by midnight on Saturday, January 23, and all those who have not received their first dose by this date will no longer be eligible to receive the vaccine. This was an unexpected policy change, which is being driven by the short supply and the need to shift our focus to vaccinating the public. This was not a decision made by TriHealth, but we must follow the Governor's orders. What this means is that if you pass on this opportunity to receive the vaccine in the prioritized healthcare worker group, but you change your mind later, you will be forced to wait until your age group is eligible and there is adequate supply. For our younger team members, this could be many months away. So please, if you have not yet signed up for your first dose, I urge you to do so TODAY. The research on both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines is clear – it is safe, it is effective,

and it **WILL protect you** and **STOP** the COVID virus in our population. Visit our Vaccine Resources page on Bridge today to learn more about the vaccine and how to schedule your vaccine appointment.

Today, we also celebrate another important milestone in our COVID journey – and that is, the first phase of community-wide vaccinations! Vaccines will now start to be administered to our patient population 80 years old and over based on Governor DeWine’s vaccine roll-out prioritization orders. TriHealth cares for approximately 30,000 patients over the age of 80, so this initial phase of the community vaccination program will take time and will be dependent on the size of our weekly allotment of vaccines from the state, which have been variable and unpredictable. Next week, we only expect to receive 1,000 additional doses and have no information from the state on when we will see larger shipments of vaccines.

That said, we will be prepared as vaccine production increases in the coming weeks and months to rapidly scale up our vaccine administration operations to administer every dose just as quickly as we receive it – as many as 6,000 doses a day, seven days a week!!!

Thanks to our Vaccine Team lead by Terri Hanlon-Bremer, we have identified five initial TriHealth sites, which include Western Ridge, Norwood, Bethesda Butler, Bethesda North Outpatient Imaging and Anderson, where we will begin administering vaccines to our patients and the public.

Guided by the Governor’s current recommendations and the availability of vaccines, we will expand vaccination eligibility over time to include younger populations in five-year age increments – over 75, over 70, over 65, and so on.

It’s important to remember that after four weeks of exclusively vaccinating TriHealth team members and physicians based on the directives of the Governor and Ohio Department of Health, TriHealth and other providers throughout the state will now be offering vaccine appointments to **BOTH** the public and our team member population through January 23– and it will be on a first come, first served basis, likely resulting in slots filling up even more quickly. So, I strongly encourage all of our team members who still need to start the vaccination process to sign up today to ensure you receive your first and second dose before your window of opportunity closes!

I also encourage you, if asked by patients about the vaccine, to share *your “why”* for getting vaccinated. As a trusted and valued care giver **YOU** – our team members and physicians – are among of the most reliable and credible sources of truth to educate, reassure, and encourage patients to get their vaccine. You will soon receive talking points and educational resources to assist you in these important conversations.

Once again, I want to thank those of you who have already received your first dose of the vaccine. Your decision to lead the way is a lifesaving and heroic act of caring and compassion! And for those who have yet to do so, I ask you to also please strongly consider getting vaccinated ... if not for yourself, then for your loved ones and your community. Never has it been more important to come together as ONE TEAM, TRIHEALTH STRONG! By doing so, we can and WILL achieve herd immunity and get back to living our lives to the fullest!

Finally, please join us later today for our latest DEI Town Hall, where we’ll pay tribute to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and provide updates on our DEI work here at TriHealth. We’ll be livestreaming on Bridge and Facebook at 12pm! See you there!