

# Information Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination

## ◎Vaccination period

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The COVID-19 vaccination is scheduled to take place from February 17, 2021 to the end of February, 2022. Vaccination will be administered sequentially to healthcare workers, the elderly, and those with underlying medical conditions.

## ◎Vaccination priority

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The COVID-19 Vaccination will be available for individuals 16 years of age or older. As the supply of the vaccine is expected to gradually increase, vaccination will be administered in predetermined order of priority.

- Healthcare workers
- Elderly (people who will reach 65 years of age during FY 2021, people born on or before April 1, 1957)
- People other than the elderly with underlying medical conditions or workers of elderly-care facilities etc.
- Others

※Those considering a pregnancy, currently pregnant, breast-feeding, and those that have been infected by COVID-19 before are also able to receive vaccination.

<Criteria for a person with an underlying medical condition>

1. People with the following illnesses or conditions who receive outpatient or inpatient care.
  - ①Chronic respiratory disease
  - ②Chronic heart disease (including hypertension)
  - ③Chronic kidney disease
  - ④Chronic liver disease (liver cirrhosis, etc.)
  - ⑤Diabetes being treated with insulin or medication, or diabetes associated with other diseases.
  - ⑥Blood diseases (excluding iron deficiency anemia)
  - ⑦Diseases that impair the functioning of the immune system (including malignant tumors under treatment)
  - ⑧Receiving treatments that depress the immune system, such as steroids
  - ⑨Neurological and neuromuscular diseases associated with immune abnormalities
  - ⑩Decreased body functions due to neurological or neuromuscular diseases (including breathing disorders)
  - ⑪Chromosomal abnormality
  - ⑫ Severe mental and physical disabilities (having both severe physical disabilities and severe intellectual disabilities)
  - ⑬Sleep apnea syndrome
  - ⑭ Severe mental illness (hospitalized for treatment of mental illness, holding a mental disability certificate or falling under the category of “severe and continuous” in self-supporting medical care (psychiatric hospital care)) or intellectual disabilities (holding a rehabilitation certificate)
2. Obese individuals that meet the criteria (BMI of 30 or higher)

**◎Vaccination locations**

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In principle, you will be able to receive vaccination in medical institutions or vaccination sites at the city, town or village where your resident card is registered (place of residence). Details on vaccination sites etc. are being planned.

**◎Vaccination cost**

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Vaccination is fully funded by the government and free of charge.

**◎Number of vaccination**

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The vaccines which the government plans on procuring require two shots. Those taking vaccine produced by Pfizer usually receive a second shot 3 weeks after receiving the first shot.

**◎Consent for vaccination**

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We recommend everyone to take the COVID-19 vaccine, but vaccination is not mandatory. We will provide relevant information to the best of our ability and provide vaccine only to those who give their consent.

**◎Regarding side-effects after vaccination**

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Common side-effects include soreness where the injection was given, headache, joint and muscle pain, fatigue, chills, fever, and others. Major side-effects such as shock or anaphylaxis also happen in rare cases. Please consult with the doctor that administered the vaccine or family doctor if you experience side-effects after being vaccinated. Health related consultation on topics such as side effects is also available at the hotline below run by Miyagi Prefecture.

<COVID-19 Consultation Hotline>

Telephone: 022-398-9211 (available 24 hours, multilingual support available)

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COVID-19 Consultation Hotline at the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare

Telephone: 0120-565653 (toll-free)

Hours: As follows (available on weekends and national holidays)

Japanese/English/Chinese/Korean/Portuguese/Spanish: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thai: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Vietnamese: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.