



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: All Officers and Members
From: Matthew White, Assistant Fire Chief *MW*
Through: Justin Wells, Executive Assistant Fire Chief *JW*
Subject: Expanding COVID Vaccine Availability – HCA & ICO
Date: December 18, 2020

Mayor
Sylvester Turner

City Council

District A
Amy Peck

District B
Jerry Davis

District C
Abbie Kamin

District D
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

District E
Dave Martin

District F
Tiffany Thomas

District G
Greg Travis

District H
Karla Cisneros

District I
Robert Gallegos

District J
Edward Pollard

District K
Martha Castex-Tatum

At-Large 1
Mike Knox

At-Large 2
David Robinson

At-Large 3
Michael Kubosh

At-Large 4
Letitia Plummer

At-Large 5
Sallie Alcorn

Controller,
Chris Brown

HFD EMS Command is continuing to work with community partners to ensure that HFD members who want the COVID-19 vaccine have multiple opportunities to receive it. In addition to Methodist Hospital System, the department has partnered with **HCA Houston Healthcare** to offer Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccines to the list of DSHS Phase 1A eligible members from HFD Emergency Response Operations.

Members interested in receiving the Pfizer vaccine are encouraged to choose the provider and location that works best for them. The Pfizer vaccine is a 2-dose vaccine and the second vaccine must be administered at least 21 days apart. Members should follow their chosen provider's instructions for scheduling their second dose. Registration links will be sent via city email addresses as more vaccine providers become available. Members need to check the 'Other' and 'Spam' folders in their emails in case the notifications wind up in these folders.

The **HFD Infection Control Office (ICO)** has accepted an Offer of Allocation from DSHS for 3,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine; to be received within the second week of Moderna shipments. HFD members interested in receiving the Moderna vaccine should closely monitor their city email for additional information and scheduling instructions.

Members receiving a vaccine are advised an immune system response to the COVID-19 vaccine is expected and means that the vaccine is working. Members scheduling their vaccination should take this into consideration and are encouraged to receive the vaccine when they are not scheduled to work the next day. Fever and COVID-19 consistent symptoms still need to be reported to ICO even if the member has recently received the vaccine.

20-305

Samuel Peña, Fire Chief

1801 Smith Street, 7th Floor | Houston, Texas 77002 | (832) 394-6702

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HFD Staff and Support (Inspection, Arson, OEC, etc.) personnel will be included in a subsequent phase and will be contacted via city email or department notification for registration. The provided links in this memorandum are for more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines. Questions and concerns about this memorandum may be sent through the chain of command to Sr. Captain David Riegor at David.riegor@houstontx.gov or (713) 806-7633.

Additional Resources and Up-To-Date COVID-19 Vaccine Information

FDA COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Updates

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>

ACIP COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Updates

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>

CDC COVID-19 FAQ's and Vaccine Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

Texas Department of State Health Services COVID-19 Vaccine Information

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>

International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

<https://www.iaff.org/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Statement-on-COVID19-Vaccines.pdf>

<https://www.firehouse.com/safety-health/news/21163848/iaff-urges-firefighters-to-get-highest-priority-for-covid-vaccine#&qid=1&pid=2>



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