

Prioritization for COVID-19 vaccine administration

This risk-based hierarchy outlines the tiered approach Houston Methodist will use to implement vaccination of health care providers and staff. Houston Methodist referred to federal guidelines and best practices used by other leading academic medical centers to complete these tiers, which may not be necessary if adequate supply of vaccine is delivered.

Tier 1: Health care providers and staff in this category are at an elevated risk for COVID exposure.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing staff serving in COVID dedicated or mixed inpatient units • Respiratory therapists • Intensivists • Proning teams • Code blue team • Infectious disease physicians • Infection control practitioners • Pulmonologists • Emergency department nursing staff and physicians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intubation teams • Physical therapists serving confirmed or suspected COVID patients • Patient facing staff in COVID therapeutics infusion units • Hospitalists and medicine residents • Staff serving in COVID specimen collection and testing areas • Environmental services staff serving in COVID units • Patient facing staff in the PO respiratory clinics • Key leaders
Tier 2: Health care providers and staff in this category are at a medium risk of COVID-19 exposure.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All remaining patient facing staff, students, medical staff and allied health professionals • Screeners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security • Employee Health staff
Tier 3: Health care providers and staff in this subcategory are at a low risk for COVID-19 exposure.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers • Non-patient facing staff • Employees working in off-site buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employees working from home • Board Members