

CRT Town Hall Q & A (previously unanswered due to time constraints)

January 2021

Q. Will our family members be able to get vaccinated with us?

A. *COVID vaccination is the responsibility of the state health department. Our university is not a state authorized vaccination center at this time and thus there are no current plans for us to receive any COVID vaccines. However, our RVU Health Center in CO has just been approved to receive vaccines to administer to patients in the undetermined future, so this may be a future opportunity for family members. Family members will likely have to get vaccinated with the rest of the general public according their categories. We will notify you if things change in this fluid situation.*

Q. Will RVU subsidize vaccines or would that go through our insurance?

A. *The vaccine is initially provided by the government. For employees on the Cigna medical plan, the administration cost is paid for by the Cigna medical or prescription plan. The same is expected for student insurances. We will know more when vaccination opportunities on our campus arises.*

Q. If a person has had COVID, how long are they "immune" to the virus?

A. *So far, it appears that detectable antibodies are seen at least 3-4 months post infection but actual time of protection is still unknown.*

Q. Could students get vaccinated and then volunteer to administer the vaccine to the community in the coming months?

A. *We have offered to help the state department and some of our local hospitals with volunteers in their vaccine efforts. They are actually doing well with staffing as of now but will keep us in mind if the need arises in the future. The one major challenge is that they want a steady group of volunteers with regular time commitments because of the time it takes to train each vaccine worker. Should we be asked to help, we will share volunteering opportunities with all of you.*

Q. How should we handle making CRT aware of individuals who have not followed guidelines for our current mandatory quarantine?

A. *If you know of an RVU student who is not adhering to the quarantine requirement, you should report the student to the Associate Dean in Student Affairs of the respective campus for unprofessional behavior.*

Q. How often will we be required to get the COVID vaccine?

A. *The current vaccines have not been out long enough for longitudinal data to suggest the need and/or frequency of revaccination.*

Q. If we were able to get vaccinated outside of RVU, do we need to report it to the school?

A. *You should retain your record of vaccination (vaccine card) and be prepared to submit a copy as proof of vaccination if requested.*

Q. Do you have information on the other new variant that they are seeing in South Africa?

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A. The CRT has not studied this new variant but will monitor for any significant developments and share with you as necessary.

Q. Why are we requiring the vaccine when many large hospital systems across the country are not requiring it? Will vaccinations be required for non-clinical RVU Staff?

A. In accordance with Rocky Vista University's duty to provide and maintain a workplace that is free of known hazards, it is our intent and guiding principle within our best ability to safeguard the safety, health and well-being of our employees and their families; our students and visitors; and the community at large from infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, that may be reduced by vaccinations and utilizing other mitigation devices such as face mask, social distancing and washing hands etc.

This is of particular concern as the pandemic is now responsible for over 365,000 deaths and current record setting surges in the United States where people without symptoms transmit more than half of all cases of the novel coronavirus virus, according to the CDC model subject to further information.

We have not yet issued a policy respecting the availability of the vaccine, our intent to comply with all applicable laws and upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration and Prevention, OSHA, EEOC, and health authorities, etc. as applicable. Additional information will be released as decisions are finalized.