

# CANVASSING SCRIPT

**IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS YOU CANNOT ANSWER, ENCOURAGE THEM TO SPEAK TO THEIR DOCTOR OR CALL 3-1-1.**

The purpose of this document is to help guide you as you canvass the community to promote the COVID-19 vaccine. Before knocking on your first door, **practice the script** and gain some level of comfort with the FAQs. This is intended only as a guide and does not need to be followed word for word.

Always maintain situational awareness and, when possible, canvass with a buddy rather than on your own. Do not go through closed gates, into yards with large dogs, or onto property with a no-trespassing sign. Not all doorbells work, so knock first. Knock on each door with purpose and then back away 3-5 feet from the door to give residents space. If nobody responds, please leave a door hanger at their door or on their windshield. If someone answers the door, use the script below to guide your conversation. Do not assume that the person answering the door is ineligible for the vaccine – the priority groups are rapidly changing. **Please keep track of your progress and fill out our end of shift survey so that we can record which areas have been canvassed.**

**(You speak 70%, they speak 30%)**

Hi there, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_. How are you doing today?

[Wait for response]

We're volunteers with the City talking to folks in the neighborhood about the COVID-19 vaccine. The New Orleans Health Department and their partners are distributing a limited number of vaccines to individuals in the current priority groups. Do you know anyone in the neighborhood that may be interested in receiving the vaccine?

[Structuring the question in this way allows them to self-identify.]

**If they have already been vaccinated:** Great! We love to hear that. Is there anyone else you can encourage to get the vaccine? Thank you for your time and have a nice day.

**If they are interested in being vaccinated:** Great, there are several options to get vaccinated. You can register for an appointment with LCMC at the Convention Center, get information about vaccine events in your community through the citywide vaccine waitlist, or look for other providers on the Louisiana Department of Health site.

[Refer them to the doorhanger for phone/website information and answer any questions you can.]

**If they are not interested in being vaccinated:** No worries. Do you mind if I ask what your concerns are?

[If anyone expresses hesitancy about receiving the vaccine, please thank them for sharing their perspective. Answer their questions if you can and note down the reasons for their concern. We will use this feedback to inform our outreach campaign. Feel free to share the reasons for your support of the vaccine, but do not debate with them.]

*Please end all conversations with a smile (even if it's just with your eyes given that you're wearing a mask) and remember that everyone is entitled to make their own healthcare decisions!*

# VACCINE WAITLIST CANVASSING FAQ

**IF ANYONE HAS QUESTIONS YOU CANNOT ANSWER, ENCOURAGE THEM TO SPEAK TO THEIR DOCTOR OR CALL 3-1-1.**

## WHEN WILL I GET AN APPOINTMENT?

Appointment availability varies with vaccine supply. If you register for the waitlist, you will receive a call as soon as appointments become available. Registering does not guarantee that you will be vaccinated by the New Orleans Department of Health. We encourage you to pursue all options to get vaccinated, including speaking to your primary care provider.



## AM I ELIGIBLE?

You do not need to be in the current priority groups to sign-up for the waitlist. However, only individuals who meet the Louisiana Department of Health's current criteria will be given appointments. The priority groups are regularly changing. To find out if you qualify for the current tiers, call 3-1-1 or go to [ready.nola.gov/vaccine](https://ready.nola.gov/vaccine).

## IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

Yes. The vaccines have gone through all of the regular steps to gain FDA approval. Trials included people who had underlying medical conditions, as well as elderly people. For any appointment, a licensed vaccinator will be on hand to administer the shot and answer your questions and medical staff will observe you for between 15-30 minutes.



## WHICH VACCINE WILL I RECEIVE? HOW MANY DOSES WILL I NEED?

We will be giving out Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson at different locations. You will not be able to choose which vaccine you receive, but all have been proven effective. Johnson & Johnson requires only one dose. Pfizer and Moderna require two. It is important that the second dose is the same vaccine that you received the first time. If applicable, your second appointment will be scheduled on the date of your first appointment for 2-4 weeks later.



## WHAT SYMPTOMS CAN I EXPECT AFTER GETTING THE VACCINE?

The experience of getting the COVID-19 vaccine should be very similar to getting any shot. You may experience some side effects including pain at the injection site, muscle pain, joint pain, headaches, fatigue, fever and chills. Most of these side effects are mild and resolve within 24 hours.



## WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO MY APPOINTMENT?

The vaccination sites run by the City of New Orleans will not require health insurance, identification, or disclosure of your immigration status. Other locations may require more information, but the vaccine is free to everyone regardless of where you get it.

## WHAT ABOUT THE LONG TERM EFFECTS?

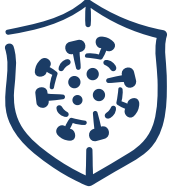
Historically, delayed effects from vaccinations have been shown to typically occur within two months of receiving a shot. At this point, people have been receiving the COVID-19 vaccines for much longer than that. Once a vaccine has been introduced, ongoing monitoring of its safety is a crucial part of the vaccine development process. So far, that monitoring has not revealed any long term side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines.



# VACCINE WAITLIST CANVASSING FAQ

## WHAT IF I'VE ALREADY HAD COVID-19?

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people who have had COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated. If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.



## WILL I BE PROTECTED FROM THE NEW VARIANTS?

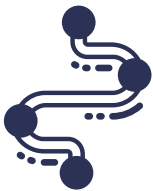
In general, you will be better protected with a vaccine than without. We are still learning how effective the vaccines are against new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19. Early data show the vaccines may work against some variants but could be less effective against others.

## WHAT IF I NEED HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION?

New Orleans has partnerships with RTA, RideShare2Vote, and Uber to help provide transportation to vaccine sites. If you need help accessing transportation, please note this in the accommodations section of your registration and ask the patient scheduler for transportation assistance when you make your appointment.



**Folks who are truly homebound can register for homebound vaccinations by calling 3-1-1.**



## HOW WERE THE VACCINES MADE SO QUICKLY?

There was a coordinated global effort to fast track vaccine development, involving partnerships between researchers, pharmaceutical companies, and international health agencies. Scientists had already spent years researching similar viruses. The process was also expedited by an unusual amount of interest in volunteering for the trials.

## I FELT BAD AFTER MY FIRST DOSE, SHOULD I GET THE SECOND?

The second dose is very important because one dose of Pfizer or Moderna will not provide full protection. It is very common to have side effects after the first dose and you should still get your second shot! If you have any further concerns, please speak to a doctor.



## CAN CHILDREN GET THE VACCINE?

The Pfizer vaccine is approved for anyone 16 and up. There are not any COVID-19 vaccines approved for children under the age of 16, simply because they were not studied. 16 and 17 year-olds should call the LCMC hotline to request an appointment.

## CAN I GET THE VACCINE WHILE PREGNANT?

Yes, if you are pregnant, you might choose to be vaccinated. Based on how COVID-19 vaccines work, experts think they are unlikely to pose a specific risk for people who are pregnant. However, there is limited data because these vaccines have not been widely studied in pregnant people. You might want to have a conversation with your healthcare provider to help you decide whether to get vaccinated. COVID-19 poses a significant threat to pregnancies.

