

# Navajo Department of Health

## Guideline for Testing and Vaccine Requirements

The purpose of the guideline is to provide COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements pursuant to N.N.C. Resolution Number CAU-48-21 Enacting COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for All Navajo Nation Government Employees; Urging All Navajo Nation-Owned Enterprises/Authorities/Corporations and Schools, Businesses and Other Entities Operating Within the Navajo Nation to Promptly Adopt COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements.

### Vaccine Requirements

#### What COVID-19 Vaccines are Authorized?

There are three vaccines available to the general public – Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

#### What is Considered Fully Vaccinated for a Person?

A person is fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or a single-dose vaccine of the Johnson & Johnson’s (J&J) Janssen vaccine.

#### Where to Access COVID-19 Vaccines?

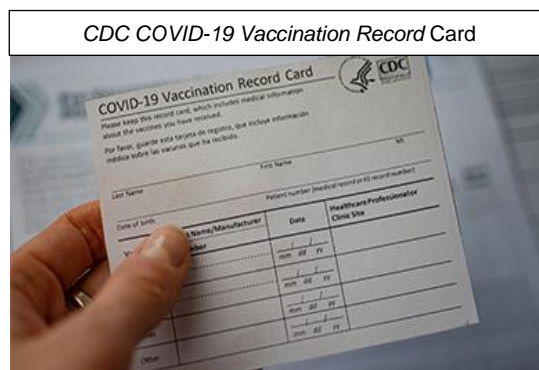
Employees have several options to access COVID-19 vaccines.

Navajo Nation employees may receive COVID-19 vaccinations at any location listed on the department webpage at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Vaccine>. The locations refer to federal and Tribal health facilities within the Navajo Area Indian Health Service and Albuquerque Indian Health Service. Vaccines are also accessible external to the Indian Health Service at private and other governmental entities.

#### Documentation of Vaccination

The Navajo Nation government, chapters and entities can comply with the Council resolution through documentation of vaccination. Employees can obtain a vaccination record in several ways:

- The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that at an employee’s first vaccination appointment, he/she should get a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record. The record includes the vaccine received, the date received, and the vaccination location.
- If an employee did not receive a record, the health facility or provider should be contacted to obtain the record.



- Employees can request for a medical record of their vaccine record from the vaccination provider. Health facilities have policies to request for a medical record, so ask about these beforehand.
- A vaccination card should include the product name, date of dose(s), vaccine lot number, patient's date of birth, the clinic/location or medical provider's name and perhaps an IIS reference number. The card should be 4" x 3" in size. If some of these areas are blank, it could be a fraudulent card.

CDC information on getting a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card can be accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccination-card.html>

## **Testing Requirements**

### **Testing Requirement for Persons Not Fully Vaccinated**

Employees who are not fully vaccinated, for any reason, against COVID-19 are required to provide documentation to their supervisor that the employee has tested negative for COVID-19 every fourteen days after the effective date of the N.N.C. Resolution Number CAU-48-21. The vaccination mandate is critical to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, and the coronavirus transmits more freely and mutates into more transmissible and/or deadly variants through unvaccinated individuals.

### **What is Considered Not Fully Vaccinated?**

A person who has: 1) not received a COVID-19 vaccine, 2) not received their second-dose of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, 3) received their second-dose of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine but it has not been two weeks after the second-dose, or 4) received their J&J Janssen COVID-19 vaccine but it has not been two weeks since the dose.

### **Documentation of an Employee Testing Negative or Positive**

An employee who is unvaccinated against COVID-19 must provide a negative COVID-19 test result every two weeks. The supervisor should collect, and record a negative or positive COVID-19 test result every 14 days, unless the employee becomes fully vaccinated. If an employee becomes fully vaccinated against COVID-19, testing will no longer be required, after their vaccination record is provided.

Most importantly, the testing documentation must be kept confidential by the immediate supervisor of an employee. Employee records should be kept secured in a locked cabinet and/or password-protected computer. Please note, employees may provide hard or digital copies of their testing result. Supervisors should have a written plan to document test results every two weeks, including sending reminders to the employee to submit testing results.

### **What Types of Testing are Acceptable?**

The Navajo Health Command Operations Center Testing Strategy Team recommends the **diagnostic testing** that is PCR-based detection of viral RNA and rapid antigen testing. Diagnostic testing is an acceptable test result to meet the testing requirement.

All health facilities on the Navajo Nation offer diagnostic COVID-19 testing. It is suggested that employees inform the provider at the health facility of the vaccine mandate requirement for unvaccinated persons. To find the nearest location for testing on the Navajo Nation, visit the webpage at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Testing>. Testing is available at all Navajo Nation health facilities, however, if employees experience testing issues, please call the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.

As an accepted alternative to diagnostic COVID-19 testing at a health facility, the Navajo Department of Health offers the BinaxNOW Self Test Kits to Navajo Nation Government supervisors (while supplies last). This mechanism is preferred for Navajo Nation Government employees, to ensure testing is accessible for community members at health facilities. All three branches of government will receive the kits, and the kits will be made available to unvaccinated employees for compliance with the testing requirement. Guidance for test administration and maintaining inventory will be issued separately to Navajo Nation Government supervisors.

Serology (antibody) testing does not meet the testing requirement. Serology testing should not be used to diagnose for COVID-19, and it is more appropriate as a population-based strategy to examine COVID-19 recently and in the past. If a supervisor or entity is interested in other testing, contact the testing strategy team to ask about the testing and strategy to administer on the Navajo Nation. For more information visit the webpage at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-Testing>.

### **Employees Testing Negative**

The supervisor will communicate testing requirements to unvaccinated employees. Employees are responsible to comply with the testing requirement and timeframe to submit results to their supervisor. An employee testing negative for COVID-19 shall continue to report to work.

### **Employees Testing Positive**

If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the employee must report to their supervisor and the HCOC portal at <https://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19> or call (928) 871-7014. If a rapid antigen test (BinaxNow Self Test Kit) results in a positive, the employee must then receive a diagnostic test at a health facility.

### **Employee Testing Timeframe**

Employee must submit a COVID-19 test result every two weeks from a test administered in the past two weeks.

For questions, contact the Navajo Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014.