



Ascension St. John

The Most Reverend David A. Konderla
Bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma
12300 E. 91st Street South
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012

December 11, 2020

Dear Your Excellency, The Most Reverend Konderla,

As a follow-up to our earlier conversations and as we anticipate emergency use authorization of COVID-19 vaccines, we are pleased to share with you additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines.

In anticipation of vaccine deployment, Ascension has developed detailed vaccination plans that address how to deploy the COVID-19 vaccines within our communities.

In late summer 2020, prior to any official guidance issued by the CDC and individual states, Ascension developed a workgroup to establish an overarching framework for equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccines for internal and external distribution, acknowledging the need for a coordinated response by our ministry that is guided by our mission and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and informed by our experience of caring for the communities we serve.

At the current time, Ascension is following guidance issued by the CDC and recommendations of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. For the first doses of vaccine available, front-line healthcare workers will be prioritized. Older residents of nursing homes and those with high-risk health conditions would receive the next round of vaccinations.

We believe the vaccines are both safe and effective and the benefits of being vaccinated outweigh any identified risks or side effects. As healthcare leaders, we have a responsibility to help educate the public and encourage vaccination to improve the health of individuals and communities, and we welcome your assistance in sharing that message with your community.

When COVID-19 vaccines are available for consumers, we will share information about availability through multiple media channels. We are acutely aware of the need for COVID-19 vaccines to be

distributed in a just and equitable way and will be conducting outreach to high-risk groups and vulnerable populations, including those who experience barriers in accessing healthcare services, to encourage vaccination.

We also want to assure you that Ascension St. John hospitals and emergency rooms remain well prepared to safely care for people with symptoms of a heart attack, stroke, respiratory distress, emergent mental health concerns, or other serious illness or injury during this pandemic.

For more information, please see the attached questions and answers. Please feel free to reach out to us with any additional questions.

Thank you for your continued support of our healing ministry.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Nowlin, FACHE
CEO - Ascension St. John

Ronald J. Tremblay, BCC, LPC
Chief Mission Integration Officer - Ascension St. John

Attachment (1)