
Vaccinations

1 message

Frederick Puddester <fwp1@williams.edu>
Reply-To: Frederick Puddester <fwp1@williams.edu>
To: WILLIAMS-STUDENTS@listserv.williams.edu

Fri, Apr 9, 2021 at 10:06 AM

To the Williams community,

After consultation with [Berkshire Health Systems](#), which is managing our county Covid vaccination effort, we have determined the best way to support our community is to provide transportation to established vaccination sites in North Adams and Pittsfield for all enrolled students and any faculty and staff without personal transportation.

We're planning to offer this service starting Monday, April 19. Shuttles will travel back and forth on a regular schedule to both sites. We'll send you a followup email next week with details about times and instructions for reserving a seat.

We made the case that a campus site would be easier for people affiliated with Williams, but BHS has to operate within state public health guidelines that authorize specific sites, and are obligated to respect Governor Baker's expectations for equitable vaccine distribution. The Williams transportation program will give you access to appointments at two major locations within half an hour of campus. We also want to emphasize that BHS has been running an extremely effective effort so far. They project that they'll be able to complete 2000 vaccinations a day at each site, subject to supply which is expected to increase soon.

The Pittsfield and North Adams sites are expecting to receive a supply of all three major vaccines: Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna. You can find additional information, including locations and eligibility information, on [the vaccine page of the state's Covid website](#) and on [the Berkshire Vaccine Collaborative's website](#)

As always, each of us will be responsible for making our own appointments [via the state system](#). Here are several other details to keep in mind:

- Students *may not* remain on campus past the end of the spring term to wait for the second dose required with Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. If you start the process here and aren't done by the end of May then you should make plans to get your second shot at your summer location. We'll provide transportation to the vaccination sites during the summer for students authorized to work and live on campus during that time.
- Everyone, including people who have been vaccinated, must continue getting tested in the college program in order to have campus access, and will also have to observe all public health protocols, including masking, social distancing and adhering to size limits on gatherings.
- We regretfully won't have the capacity to transport family members or other non-college people to the sites, or to provide transportation to any other locations besides Pittsfield and North Adams. Students who choose to make appointments in Springfield, Albany, Boston, etc., can contact the dean's office to request permission to use private transportation for that purpose. Permission will generally be granted as long as the round trip can be completed in one day, with no stops or overnights, and as long as the student either drives alone or only with a family member or podmate.

While we're sorry that this outcome is less than ideal in terms of ease of access, we're very happy that members of our community are starting to get vaccinated and that we can help get people to nearby locations that have significant numbers of appointments per day for a population of our size.

The situation on campus and nationally is a long way from normal, but we hope the college's shuttle program will help you all to protect yourselves as fully as possible.

Fred and Marlene