Frequently Asked Questions

**COVID-19**

**PHASE 1E**

For more information on priority groups, please refer to the Department of Health and Human Services' website.

**PHASE 1B**

Frontline healthcare workers in acute care settings have been identified to receive the vaccination first. For more information, visit doh.sd.gov/covid/.

**PHASE 1D**

Everyone will eventually be eligible to receive the COVID vaccination. However, priority populations include:

- High risk residents in congregate settings
- High risk patients (dialysis, post-transplant, chronic lung disease, active cancer)
- Persons aged 65 years and older
- Other healthcare workers (including long-term care facility healthcare workers)
- Persons aged 16 years and older with underlying medical conditions (such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease)

**PHASE 1A**

Individuals with highest risk will be part of the Phase 1 vaccination plan. The Department of Health and Human Services' recommendations and the state's vaccine allocation from the federal government will guide the implementation of the vaccination plan.

**How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine will SD receive?**

The state of South Dakota received 100,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on December 15, 2020. The state continues to receive doses as more vaccine is distributed.

**What does “flattening the curve” mean?**

Flattening the curve refers to reducing the rapid transmission of COVID-19. This means spreading out the number of new infections over a longer period of time, which can help the healthcare system cope with the increased demand for care.

**Is it safe to resume activities like shopping, outdoor recreation, dining out, going to church, holiday parties, attending school events, etc.?**

It is important to follow the state's public health guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines may include wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and washing hands frequently. It is also recommended to limit gatherings to small groups and follow the guidelines for the specific activity you plan to participate in.

**Can I practice social distancing outside?**

Yes, you can practice social distancing outside. However, it is important to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others to reduce the risk of transmission.

**How long can the COVID-19 virus live on surfaces?**

The virus can live on surfaces for up to 24 hours, depending on the type of surface and the conditions under which it is exposed. Generally, surfaces made of metal, glass, and plastic are more resistant to the virus, while paper and fabric are more susceptible.

**Can I do a self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms and risks?**

Yes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed a screening tool to help you decide if you need to seek care. The tool asks about symptoms, exposure history, and recent travel.

**What should I do if I have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for test results to come back?**

If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is waiting for test results, you should self-quarantine for 14 days. This means staying at home and not leaving your residence except for essential activities such as getting medical care.

**What should I do if I've been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?**

If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you should self-quarantine for 14 days. If you develop symptoms, you should seek medical care immediately.

**Can I practice social distancing while working on a construction site?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working on a construction site. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a restaurant?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a restaurant. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a retail store?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a retail store. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a food service establishment?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a food service establishment. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a grocery store?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a grocery store. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a day care facility?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a day care facility. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a school?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a school. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a workplace?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a workplace. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a hospital?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a hospital. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.

**Can I practice social distancing while working in a nursing home?**

Yes, it is important to practice social distancing while working in a nursing home. This includes maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others and using personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves.