You might be wondering how efficient Allina Health has been distributing the COVID-19 vaccine. We are thrilled that so many people are eager to get vaccinated and understand that it might be confusing to understand when, how, and where. The answers to each of these questions are partly dependent on how much vaccine we receive from the government each week. And the number can vary greatly.

We're working hard to get as much vaccine as we can from the state authorities, to administer it quickly to our most vulnerable patients, and communicate information as it becomes available. We learn from the state health authorities each week how much vaccine we will receive from the following week. There are many factors that affect how much vaccine supply we receive, which may speed up or slow down our pace of week to week vaccinations. Once we receive a vaccine allocation, we determine how much vaccine appointments we can schedule and then contact a group of patients to schedule.

Because of the variability in our supply from week to week, we want to be sure we aren't scheduling too far out in order to minimize the risk of having to cancel appointments weeks away if we don't receive enough vaccine. The amount of vaccines we receive in the state isn't always predictable. We have a large population of patients to serve in our eligible patient groups. We are working quickly and efficiently. But the process will take time until the vaccine becomes more plentiful.

More than 74,000 doses of vaccine have been administered to patients and staff at Allina Health, and it's growing each day. We are proud to be one of the few health systems in the state of Minnesota that is consistently 100% of our vaccine when we receive it and get it administered in three days or less. That means we are distributing every vaccine in less than three days after we receive it from the state. We have several longer term vaccination hubs around the metro, and opened up pop-up locations occasionally to distribute vaccine most efficiently.

We are working hard to bring the vaccine closer to communities who have been disproportionately impacted by the virus, by having community vaccine events in March, as many barriers is possible to ensure that equitable distribution of the vaccine. At a high level, we take every effort to ensure no vaccine is wasted, including partnering with some school districts to help vaccinate educators if we have any extra doses left over at the end of the day. As a reminder, patients who are eligible to receive their vaccine from line will be contacted by email, phone, or letter, when it’s time to schedule. Until that time, you do not have to take any action.

If you have access to vaccine elsewhere, we encourage you to do so. Please be patient as we continue the contact, schedule, and vaccinate our patients. We care about you and your health and your experience. We understand that it seems that information is changing quickly. And that's because it is. Please know we are working hard to keep you informed as we receive more information. Eventually, we expect to be able to vaccinate all adults who want a COVID-19 vaccine as supplies increase. And remember, the latest updates can be found in our COVID-19 vaccination resource page.