

Sarah Overton, Chief Nursing Officer, OSF Multi-Specialty Services - OSF HealthCare

How is the vaccine allocated?

We receive state allocations down to the local county levels and then every county health department gets to decide how they're going to effectively use that vaccine for their population. Perhaps it's the essential worker that they want to target such as teachers, grocery workers, public transit or our 65+ population. :22

How do you prepare for differences in the Pfizer & Moderna vaccines?

What's unique about both of these drugs is they're extremely different in their reconstitution, their ability to remain outside of storage, cold chain storage. So our nurses need to be competenced and trained on what that looks like. The ability for them to stay into a room temperature is extremely timed, so I know within our clinics we've set timers and processes and assured that there's stability in that drug. So that's critically important so that we can make sure it gets into that patient's arm. Moderna, likewise, different reconstitution process, different way to pull that drug up, and both of them have different education points for our patients. :42

It is critical to be ready when we get allocation of vaccine

I think it's critical for us to be ready and willing to support our local health departments. I think we have it down to a fine science and a process so we really are ready to take an allocation in any market where we can receive it. We would love to be running these clinics and just get everybody done so we can move out of this pandemic. :23

Just in time approach helps OSF manage the vaccination process

We get our allocations usually Monday and by Saturday our goal is to have it all administered. We've definitely hit that mark and we are administering and depleting our reserves to make sure that we have utilized that vaccine. We can't leave a dose sitting in a syringe in a refrigerator, it doesn't have that stability. It's critical to have that just-in-time approach to call people and let them know it's time to come in, we need you. :27

Our relationship with local departments critical to success of the vaccination effort

I can't speak enough to how our local health departments have really collaborated with us and they recognize we have the best relationship with a patient, that 65+. Most of the patients do have one risk factor that puts them in a category to make sure they get vaccinated and they recognize that our relationship, our EHR, the way are able to leverage and connect with the patients to get them in is really critical. :27

Lisabeth Pongracz, Practice Manager overseeing COVID-19 clinic – OSF HealthCare

We are affecting change through the vaccination clinics

We're affecting change because those patients can go back to their lives again and they can do what they want to do and they can be where they want to be with their families again. And they don't have the fear of COVID hanging over them and the fear of becoming sick or making someone in their family sick by being an asymptomatic patient. :23

One patient was memorable

She had an emotion about her and so I asked her 'are you going to be okay, are you anxious about this?' And she said no, she said 'I haven't seen this many people, I haven't been around this many people in a year. I haven't been able to see my family, to hold my family.' She said this is my hope for a future to be able to do that again. And that, the long hours, the planning, everything that we put into this, that's what we're here for. :32

We have never been thanked so much

I've never been thanked so many times in such a short period of time by patients. We are thanked by patients every day, but it's every patient that comes in here and you can see by their body language, by their smiles, by their eyes, this is their ticket to enjoy their lives again. :20

Time flies in the clinic

The time just flies and everybody here has the same excitement. We're picking it up from the patients and we're turning it into our joy as well. :14