



## Sept. 17, 2021

### Healers Share Why They Encourage the COVID Vaccine

Christina Hopkins, a registered nurse at Norman Regional, works with COVID patients every day. Listen to her powerful message about what patients tell her and why many wish they had gotten the vaccine. [Click here to watch the video.](#)



### Questions about Teens and the COVID Vaccine

Do you have questions about your teenager and the COVID-19 vaccine? Dr. Ahmad Ashfaq, an infectious disease physician, answers your questions in this video. [Click here to watch.](#)



### Café Grills to Close Early

## COVID-19 Vaccine Program Update

Dear Healers:

I wanted to share with you additional information about COVID-19 developments in our community, state and country and updates on vaccinations, natural hybrid-immunity and booster shots.

### Presidential Mandate

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, when President Joe Biden announced stringent new vaccine rules for federal workers, large employers (100+ employees) and healthcare workers. Those rules have not been finalized. The president has indicated that workers must be vaccinated or tested once a week. Businesses that do not comply will potentially face financial fines per employee. At this time, we simply do not have enough information to determine how this will impact healers at Norman Regional Health System. We will provide COVID-19 vaccination federal guideline developments as they occur.

### COVID-19 Delta Variant Surge

As you know, COVID-19 *delta variant* cases have been rising since July and many are questioning how long this surge in infections and the pandemic itself will last. That is difficult if not impossible to predict and adding to that unpredictability is the fact that overall vaccination rates are slowing. Our Chief Medical Officer and practicing Intensivist, Dr. Aaron Boyd noted, "The overwhelming majority of admissions to the hospital are unvaccinated patients. There have been no admissions since July (the second wave) to the ICU of vaccinated patients."

### COVID-19 Vaccination

We know that the Pfizer, Moderna and J&J vaccines are effective in preventing severe illness and death – even from the new delta variant. Additionally, among the breakthrough positive cases of COVID-19, fully or partially vaccinated people experience a milder and shorter illness compared to those who are unvaccinated. To that point, a recent study of COVID-19 deaths in England noted that the risk of death involving

Starting Monday September 20, the grill at the Porter and HealthPlex cafes will be closed after 2 p.m. temporarily. The hot line will open for dinner at 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. each day. The café will remain open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. but there will not be a hot food option.

We apologize for this inconvenience and will re-open the grill as soon as possible.

If you know of anyone, 16 or older, looking for a job, the NRHS cafes have full-time, part-time, prn openings for day and evening shifts at both Porter and the HealthPlex. Interested applicants can [apply here](#).

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#### Providers Share Why They Were Vaccinated:

"I got vax'ed to protect my family and my patients. Small jab, BIG IMPACT." - Colorectal Surgeon Dr. Rahal Kahanda



"This represents the day I began to feel hope for better days to come. The day I felt a little better about coming home to my family without feeling like despite all my best efforts, I might be the reason they get sick. I got vaccinated to protect all those around me I care about." - General Surgeon Dr. William Hinojosa.

coronavirus was consistently lower for people who had received two vaccinations compared to one or no vaccination. The CDC continues to recommend everyone 12 and older get vaccinated against COVID-19.

#### Post-COVID-19 Natural/Hybrid Immunity

There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that vaccination plus natural post-COVID immunity leads to a particularly robust protection from the virus. This hybrid-immunity examined in laboratory studies found increased levels of antibodies in people who had been previously infected. Antibody levels can vary from person to person after an illness, leaving some vulnerable to reinfection. If you have natural immunity from a prior COVID infection, please consult your provider for guidance about taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### COVID-19 Booster

Another option for boosting your immunity to COVID-19 is a 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine shot. Early in September, Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a plan to offer COVID-19 vaccine booster shots this fall. However, the FDA has yet to authorize the 3<sup>rd</sup> booster shot. The FDA and CDC are still looking at available data to understand the effectiveness of a booster dose for the general population. Currently, the recommendation is solely for immunocompromised individuals.

The purpose of this letter was also to inform you of the incredible capabilities of both modern medical research, the human body's immune system and new vaccine developments.

Thank you for your continued devotion to our patients and to one another. You are truly beacons of hope and healing!

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## Flu Vaccine Update

Norman Regional will begin administering the flu vaccine to healers at our annual Flu Vaccine clinics in September and October. Please remember the flu vaccine is required for all healers unless they have a medical or religious declination. The deadline to receive your vaccine or turn in your declination form is Oct. 31.

The location of the HealthPlex clinics has changed due to construction.

The days for the clinics are:



### Vaccine Information

If you are not yet vaccinated against COVID-19, please get the vaccine. If you received the vaccine from an outside organization such as CVS or the Health Department, please provide a copy of this to Employee Health by emailing, faxing or dropping it off at their office. This helps us ensure an accurate number of healers vaccinated.

[This flyer](#) has information on where you can get the vaccine. Norman Regional's Primary Care clinics offer the COVID vaccine to all established patients. If you don't have a healthcare provider, Norman Regional can match you with one in your area. We have clinics in Moore, south Oklahoma City, Norman, Newcastle, Blanchard, Noble and more. Call our referral line at 405-515-5000 to make an appointment today.

### Monoclonal Antibody Infusions for Pediatric Patients

Norman Regional provides Monoclonal Antibody Infusion treatment for COVID for adult patients. If you are looking for this treatment for a child aged 12 to 18 years, Just Kids Pediatrics provides this

All Clinic Times are  
7am - 11am & 12pm - 3:30pm

## ► Porter    ► HealthPlex    ► Moore

[Cafeteria]    [Conf. Room 2, Executive Hallway]    [Lobby]

- September 21 (Tuesday)
- September 22 (Wednesday)
- September 27 (Monday)
- September 28 (Tuesday)
- September 24 (Friday)
- October 13 (Wednesday)
- October 1 (Friday)
- September 30 (Thursday)
- October 7 (Thursday)
- October 4 (Monday)
- October 11 (Monday)
- October 6 (Wednesday)
- October 14 (Thursday)
- October 8 (Friday)
- October 15 (Friday)
- October 19 (Tuesday)
- October 18 (Monday)

Norman Regional Moore and the Norman Regional Foundation are also hosting the annual Boo To the Flu free family flu vaccine clinic. Healers and their families are welcome to attend. Vaccines will be given from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 30 at the Norman Regional Moore Conference Center.

Be Well,

*President & Chief Executive Officer  
Norman Regional Health System*

treatment. For more information, [click here.](#)