

Locals 302 and 612 of the International Union of Operating Engineers Trust Funds

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Administered by
Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc.

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PLEASE READ! – IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID VACCINES

Your Plan covers all charges for the COVID-19 vaccine. We hope you will consider protecting yourself and your family via vaccination. As we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times of COVID-19 and its variants, the Trustees strongly urge you to consider your options, do research, and decide if a COVID-19 vaccination makes sense for you and your family.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- The CDC recommends all persons over age 12 get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.
- The Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines have been proven safe and effective by the FDA for people who are 16 and older, and the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children age 12 and older.
- The vaccines have been shown to be highly effective in preventing serious illness from the COVID-19 virus, and in the event of breakthrough illness, have shown to lessen severity.
- The vaccine has been available since December 2020 and more than 386 million doses have been given in the United States to date.
- Your Health Plan has seen **531 outpatient** visits, **314 emergency room** visits and **541 hospitalizations** due to COVID-19 illness.
- Benefit costs to the Health Plan so far exceed \$1.6 million dollars for treatment of those who have become sick with COVID-19 virus.
- With the COVID-19 variants in our communities, the **risk** of contracting the virus and suffering serious illness and long term health effects is **high for those not vaccinated against this virus.**
- Today, **over 90% of people in US hospitals with the COVID-19 virus are unvaccinated**, and almost all deaths due to COVID-19 are among unvaccinated people.
- Hospitals in Washington and Alaska are at capacity due to the surge in COVID-19 patients and some have invoked crisis standards of care limiting treatment available to all patients. This strain on medical resources is also creating longer wait times for elective procedures and ordinary, non-COVID related delivery of medical care.

WHERE CAN I GET VACCINATED?

The vaccine is available in many convenient locations across Washington and Alaska. Check with your doctor's office or pharmacy to see if they can schedule you, or you can find a vaccine site by:

- **Going online:** Visit vaccines.gov, click on "COVID-19 Vaccines" and enter your zip code.
- **Calling:** Call the hotline at 1-833-VAX-HELP (833-829-4357), then press #. Language assistance is available.
- **Texting:** You can also text your zip code to 438-829 (GET VAX) or 822-862 (VACUNA) for vaccine locations near you.

As you consider whether getting vaccinated is right for you, we urge you to talk with your medical providers. While there is a lot of talk about the vaccine in the media, we also urge you to verify and be sure the information you rely on comes from a credible source and is up to date.

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