

# HAZEL HAWKINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL COVID-19 UPDATE

JANUARY 2021

## THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS HERE!



## DECIDING TO GET VACCINATED

While it was developed in record time, **the COVID vaccine has passed the same 3 phases of clinical trials that all other vaccines must undergo** for FDA approval.

**It is impossible to get COVID from the vaccine.** It works by prompting your immune system to produce a protein that helps it fight the virus. However, it may cause some side effects after your injection as your immune system adjusts.

If you are pregnant or immunocompromised, please consult your doctor.

## COVID-19 CASES AT HHMH

ALL HHMH STAFF: 91  
NUHW MEMBERS: 48

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## What the vaccine does and how to get it

- Any employee can get the vaccine, even if you've turned it down before.
- To get the vaccine, make an appointment through your director, or call or drop in to the Employee Health office.
- Hazel Hawkins will move to the next phase of vaccine distribution (to community healthcare providers) on **January 16. After that, vaccine supplies may be limited.**
- It is **very important to get the second shot 21 days after your first shot.** The hospital will not send you a reminder, so be sure to check your vaccination card.
- **The vaccine does not provide the full protection until 2-3 weeks after the second shot.**
- The vaccine will keep you from getting sick with COVID, but it will not protect you from being infected or spreading the virus. **That's why it is very important to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing even after you are vaccinated.**

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## NUHW HELPED WIN NEW COVID TESTING RULE!

This summer, NUHW's COVID-19 member survey found that testing was a priority for members across the state, so we pushed elected officials to provide it. A few weeks ago, the California Department of Public Health recommended that all healthcare employers provide weekly testing to employees. This is a big win for NUHW and California healthcare workers!

Hazel Hawkins is making COVID-19 tests available to all

employees, with kits that you can use to swab yourself. This test is much more comfortable than the swab that goes way up the nose! Each department will select a testing day on which each employee can pick up a kit, swab, and bring the kit to the lab. Ask your director when your department's testing day is and where you can pick up your kit.

Both the test and the vaccine are optional and free. Our union is echoing the advice of public health officials in



encouraging members to get vaccinated.

For more COVID-19 information and resources, visit [NUHW.org/covid-19](https://www.nuhw.org/covid-19).

## HMH EMPLOYEES WANT TO JOIN OUR UNION, BUT MANAGEMENT REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE

In August, Hazel Hawkins employees in the Purchasing, Engineering, Respiratory, and Surgery departments petitioned to join NUHW. In October, they chose a bargaining team and met with management to propose joining the current NUHW contract. Their proposal included modest raises and a step system similar to that of the 300 other NUHW members at HHMH.

Management was disrespectful and refused to negotiate. Several days later, HR sent a letter from the district's attorney declaring that they had no legal obligation to recognize

the new members' rights to bargain. This letter — refusing to recognize union rights and disrespecting members who have devoted decades to serving Hazel Hawkins — was the first communication we received from new CEO Steven Hannah. Is this a sign of what HHMH's new leadership thinks of workers' rights?

However, NUHW's legal counsel believes the District is not on solid legal footing, and our attorney has responded with a notice saying as much. We will keep members updated on further developments.

## HAZEL HAWKINS HAS ENDED COVID LEAVE AS OF DEC. 31

The law requiring employers to provide up to 2 weeks sick time to employees who miss work due to COVID-19 expired December 31, 2020. Hazel Hawkins has chosen not to extend this program.

This requirement has helped prevent the spread of infection by supporting staff with COVID symptoms or a possible exposure to make the right decision to stay home and protect their coworkers from potential exposure.