

# SALINAS VALLEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL COVID-19 UPDATE

JANUARY 2021

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET THE VACCINE!

If you turned down the vaccine in the first round, you can still get vaccinated. The hospital is finishing the second shots for phase 1 and will start a new round soon.

Be sure to call Employee Health to get on the list or to let your director know you are interested in the shot so you don't miss out!



## VACCINE FACTS

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.

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.**

If you are pregnant or immunocompromised, consult your doctor.

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For more about the COVID vaccine, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6fs3occ> for an educational video featuring Dr. Allen Radner, CEO of SVMH and Chief Medical Officer of the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System.

## SVMH COVID NUMBERS

- Total NUHW members at SVMH: 891
- Total positive NUHW members at SVMH: 92 *that's more than 1 in 10*
- Total NUHW members at SVMH who have been vaccinated: 571 (64%)

## RESOURCES

The Hotels for Healthcare Workers Program provides hotel rooms to healthcare workers so they don't bring take the virus home with them. If you have been exposed to COVID-19 at work and are unable to self-isolate or quarantine at home, please email [HotelProgram@svmh.com](mailto:HotelProgram@svmh.com) to request a room. Or call Human Resources Monday through Friday between 8AM and 4PM at **(831) 755-0759**.

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## IMPORTANT CHANGES IN SVMH LEAVE POLICY FOR COVID-19!

### Additional PTO no longer offered for quarantining.

The law requiring employers to grant up to two weeks additional PTO for staff who must quarantine due to COVID — whether or not they test positive — expired on December 31, 2020.

### COVID Paid Administrative Leave (PAL) Program

SVMH has elected to continue PAL. This means that employees who test positive for COVID-19 and must miss work will be eligible for paid leave for up to 80 hours, starting from the date of their

test. However, if you miss work while quarantining while you wait for test results and your test comes out negative, those missed hours will be deducted from your regular sick time bank.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

As the hospital struggles to deal with COVID, management has proposed temporarily moving some staff into new roles or new areas. However, management is required to consult with the Union over these changes. If you have any questions or concerns about changes in your area, talk to your union steward.

N95 masks are available upon request to all SVMH staff providing direct care to patients. If you would like an N95, ask the charge nurse at the start of your shift.

### KEEP UP WITH NUHW!

- Twitter: NUHWunion
- Facebook: NUHWunion
- Instagram: NUHWunion

## Meet our new NUHW SVMH organizer, Toni Macias!

**Wednesday, February 17  
12PM to 7PM**

### Cafeteria Patio

Toni Macias has more than 20 years of experience in the labor movement, with much of it in healthcare. She is also fluent in Spanish.

Toni recently moved out west to California from Texas and is committed to building NUHW!

Contact Toni at (210) 843-7776 or [tmacias@nuhw.org](mailto:tmacias@nuhw.org).



More COVID resources available on our website:

**[NUHW.org/covid-19](https://www.nuhw.org/covid-19)**