

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

After many weeks of planning and working in conjunction with Maricopa County and DuPage County, we have been officially authorized to begin vaccine distribution. We are pleased that Midwestern University has the trust and confidence of our public officials to become partners in this very important public health endeavor.

We have an actual start date on the Glendale Campus early next week in the Therapy Institute. We will begin by implementing two “trial-run” days for a small sample group of MWU faculty, staff and students who meet the eligibility requirements for the Phase 1A/1B to be vaccinated on campus to assure all of our logistics are operational and run smoothly. To ensure this is a fair, equitable, and coordinated process, we will randomly identify some eligible faculty, staff and students currently assigned to clinic operations to be the first to receive an on campus vaccination. Once the system-randomized invitation is issued, if the qualifying individual wishes to become vaccinated, information will be provided regarding how to select a date and time.

In accordance with the Maricopa County Guidelines, on Day Three, we will begin full operations of the University’s Vaccination Clinic to eligible, registered patients ages 75 to 104. Fifty patient invitations will be issued at a time from our pool of 7400 patients in this age category. If a patient confirms they would like to become vaccinated, they will select a time and date, and complete all paperwork online. Our plan is to vaccinate 15 patients per hour. The Vaccination Center will be open between 8:00 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. Patients must have an appointment to be admitted to the Vaccination Center. Should we have patients that do not have internet or computers, we will be able to assist them so they can make an appointment.

On the Downers Grove Campus, we do not have an exact start date from DuPage County. However, we are proceeding with the plans in order to implement a Vaccination Center in our Multispecialty Clinic in the weeks to come. We anticipate the same implementation plan and same hours of operation, utilizing the lobby of the Clinic. Patients over the age of 75 will be invited to become vaccinated at our Clinic.

Eligible faculty, staff and students may be invited to receive a vaccine if there’s a cancellation or no-show from a patient. Notifications will be made through the MWU online portal when an open time slot becomes available to those eligible. This will also be done on a random basis in order to maintain fairness and impartiality within our campus community.

We have many volunteer opportunities for our faculty, staff and students to successfully serve our community. Volunteer opportunities for the Vaccination Centers include Greeters, Allscripts-proficient Scribes, Experienced Vaccinators, and Waiting Room Medical Observers/First Aid. Sign-up rosters for available opportunities will be posted under the “Event Registration” section of the MWU Online Portal; when you see these available volunteer positions listed, please carefully review specific requirements/qualifications for each volunteer position before registering yourself. The Event Registration will be updated on regular basis depending on volunteer staffing needs, so please check periodically for available opportunities. However, please keep in mind that students cannot volunteer if a particular shift is in conflict with lecture times, during a mid-term or final exam, or other mandatory program activity. Please be aware that your Deans and Program Directors will announce plans for future volunteer opportunities in the upcoming weeks. Faculty and staff are asked to please contact their immediate supervisor in order to make necessary coverage arrangements before signing up to volunteer.

This is a major and important operation that will be successful if all of us do our part to help our Midwestern community and ensure that our many eligible patients become vaccinated. There is a light at the end of this long pandemic, and I am proud of the commitment of our entire academic family as we continue to come together to help each other.

Be well.

Dr. G.