

A message from GAU president, Anna Wilcoxon:

As the Covid vaccine campaign continues in Illinois, I know many of you have questions and are wondering when your turn will be, and whether or not SIU has any control over helping you get one. So, we want to help answer some of those questions for you. First, the vaccination campaign, and eligibility within, is determined by the state government, and SIU has no real say in how those determinations are made. Currently, higher education workers (including GAs) are not included in any of the phase 1 priority groups (Illinois is now in phase 1b, see the IDPH guidelines [here](#)). The National Education Association has been putting pressure on state governments to include higher ed workers, but as of yet, we have not been included. However, as of this past Thursday, Illinois residents who are between the ages of 16-64 who have any underlying health conditions that would put them at higher risk for severe Covid are eligible to sign up for their first dose of the vaccine. There are currently two locations in Carbondale administering the vaccine: The Carbondale Civic Center (200 S. Illinois Ave.), and the Banterra Center/Arena (on SIU's campus – 1490 Douglas Dr.). We do encourage those who have conditions listed on the [CDC website](#) to sign up to get your vaccination if you're comfortable doing so. You can sign up using this [link](#); simply select your preferred location and find an open appointment. Please share this information with folks you know who may also want to sign up for a vaccine.

Also, keep in mind that if SIU does get the power to make decisions about who gets vaccinated and when, we have secured the right to bargain how those decisions are made with the university through our spring [Memorandum of Understanding](#).

GAU has done what we can to try to support the most vulnerable among us throughout this crisis, and we ask you to join us in that effort. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any further questions you might have.

In good health and solidarity,

Anna