



A National Lutheran Community

To: All Residents, Families and Team Members
From: Erin Wheeler, Healthcare Administrator
Date: December 24, 2020
Subject: Health Center Vaccination Clinic and FAQs

Memorandum

By now, you have probably learned that two of the COVID-19 vaccinations have been approved by the FDA. Distribution began last week to frontline health care workers and residents in long-term care facilities. As shared in previous updates from Kyle Hreben, executive director of The Village at Rockville, through Operation Warp Speed's Pharmacy Partnership program, we are working with CVS to schedule a vaccine clinic for residents residing in all neighborhoods of the Health Center and all team members in early January. Based on information provided at this time, we believe that our community will be given the Pfizer vaccine.

The final details of the clinic dates, times and logistics are under development. However, we do know that a consent will be required for all residents and team members prior to accepting the vaccine. As soon as CVS makes this consent available to us, we will provide it by email to the primary medical decision maker for each resident as documented in our system. To assist us in making the registration process as efficient as possible, we ask that you promptly return the consent.

Additionally, prior to the vaccine clinic, we plan to have a member of our team reach out to each resident and the primary medical decision maker to discuss any questions/concerns regarding the vaccine. If the resident is their own primary decision maker, the POA will not be contacted. In an effort to provide continued education on COVID-19 and the available vaccines, we've attached a FAQ documented provided by AMDA—The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine that provides great answers to questions on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, how a mRNA vaccine works, possible side effects and recommendations for taking the vaccine even if you've had COVID. Additionally, we have attached an education sheet on the Pfizer vaccine.

We understand that some may be concerned about the safety of these new vaccines, as they have been developed and tested far more quickly than those in the past. We want to assure you that the speed with which these vaccines were developed is not due to skipping important safety steps, but rather the result of focused, collaborative work performed by experts across the globe. Vaccines approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have undergone the same level of rigorous testing for safety and efficacy as other vaccines, and have been tested in tens of thousands of people, including older adults. Two independent advisory committees of experts from academic institutions also monitor vaccines to ensure their safety.

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The COVID-19 vaccines require two separate doses given about three or four weeks apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated, with more pronounced discomfort after the second dose. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. Sometimes there is misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions, as you may have heard someone say a vaccine has “made them sick” or given them the disease that the vaccine was intended to prevent. We want to be clear that this is not the case. The COVID-19 vaccine cannot give you a COVID-19 infection. The vaccine works by helping the body create antibodies to fight off the virus. Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.

While The Village at Rockville cannot require the vaccine, we do strongly recommend all residents, team members and volunteers receive the COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with the CDC and FDA recommendations when it’s made available. We are confident in the work that has been done to get it to this stage of the vaccine development. Getting vaccinated will help protect yourself and others around you. Building defenses against COVID-19 on our campus and in the greater community is a team effort, and each person is a key part of that defense.

We remain committed to walking this journey together, and we are eager to take this next step in mitigating the COVID-19 virus. On behalf of the entire Rockville team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!