



COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

TIMING AND ACCESS

1. When will Prestige patients and residents be able to receive a vaccine?

Prestige Care has partnered with Walgreens and CVS pharmacies and local health departments to host vaccination clinics in our skilled nursing centers and senior living communities beginning in December 2020. Your location will soon be reaching out to you with additional information regarding its specific vaccination clinic schedule.

2. When will Prestige staff members receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Along with our residents and patients, long-term care staff are also included in the first group who is eligible to receive the vaccine. We are heartened that Prestige employees will be included in our plans to administer vaccine to patients and residents, as it will continue to decrease the risk of exposing those in our care to COVID-19.

3. Will staff, patients and residents throughout Prestige Care have access to both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine?

Vaccine availability and distribution is determined on a state level; each state has made an agreement with the federal government to receive one of the two vaccines. Your location will be reaching out directly to share more information regarding which vaccine will be available to your loved one.

REQUIREMENTS AND CONSENT

1. Will Prestige staff, patients and residents be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19?

The approved vaccines have been shown in clinical trials to provide significant protection against serious illness due to COVID-19, and while receiving a vaccine will be voluntary, we strongly believe that this will be a lifesaving turning point in our fight against this virus. We encourage all patients, residents and staff members in our Prestige family to provide consent to be vaccinated.

2. How can patients and residents provide consent to be vaccinated?

In order to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, your Prestige location will reach out directly to patients and residents, as well as families, with instructions for providing verbal or written consent. Please look for a separate note with more information in the coming weeks.

3. My loved one is receiving memory care. How can they provide consent to receive a vaccine if they are cognitively impaired?

If a resident is unable to offer their own consent, a family member or guardian will be invited to provide verbal or written consent on behalf of their loved one.

SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS

1. How do I know that the vaccines are safe?

There are four distinct phases of vaccine development, and the vaccine must meet very intense safety criteria before completing each phase. Phase 3 involves testing the vaccine in tens of thousands of people enrolled in clinical trials to determine if it is safe for widespread use. While the Federal Drug Authority (FDA) advises a minimum of 3,000 trial participants to assess safety, the trials led by Pfizer and Moderna had 30,000 to 50,000 participants, respectively.

The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have completed rigorous testing to ensure they meet the highest safety standards set by two independent advisory committees: The Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) that advises the FDA, and The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition to ACIP and VRBPAC, the FDA evaluates all data during the vaccine development process. The FDA requires 50% efficacy of a COVID-19 vaccine, and the two approved COVID-19 vaccines have shown 94% to 95% efficacy in preventing COVID-19 in Phase 3 trials.

Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines were approved through an Emergency Use Authorization, which is granted based on the need to use a vaccine quickly to save lives during an urgent health crisis. Although this approval path is expedited, it does not eliminate any steps in the safety evaluation process.

2. Are there side effects associated with receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?

As with many vaccines, you may experience a typical immune response which can be short-term discomfort afterward, including fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. These reactions can last for 24-48 hours and are typically more pronounced after the second dose of the vaccine. These bodily responses are normal, common and expected.

3. How do the vaccines protect against COVID-19?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses given three to four weeks apart, as a second dose has been shown in studies to increase effectiveness.

Both are mRNA vaccines, which work by giving instructions to our cells to make a harmless protein that looks like a protein that is unique to the COVID-19 virus. Our bodies recognize that this protein should not be there, so they build antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future. The mRNA is destroyed after this process.

mRNA vaccines do not contain any live or killed viral particles and will not cause you to develop COVID-19. Rather, they are designed to give your body the tools it needs to fight the virus effectively and/or prevent you from getting it at all. For more information, visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/how-they-work.html>

4. For how long do the vaccines protect against COVID-19?

Scientific experts are still monitoring and gathering data from clinical trial participants to better understand how long immunity lasts after vaccination. It's possible that new COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be developed annually, similar to the flu shot, to ensure they offer the best protection against the virus as it adapts over time.

5. Does someone who has already recovered from COVID-19 need to be vaccinated?

Scientific experts have confirmed it is safe and beneficial for anyone who has had COVID-19 to receive a vaccine for the virus. Although those who have contracted the virus do have immunity, it is too soon to know how long this protection lasts. The CDC advises that the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without your having to experience the illness first.

POST-VACCINE PRACTICES

1. After staff, residents and patients throughout Prestige Care are vaccinated, will all still be required to wear masks and other PPE?

Yes, our transmission-based precautions throughout Prestige Care will not change after the vaccine is administered, as it takes one to two weeks after the second dose of the vaccine for your body to be protected against the virus. These safety measures include continuing to wear personal protective equipment and practicing social distancing.

In addition, studies have not yet confirmed that the approved vaccines prevent transmission, so it will remain just as important to practice regular hand hygiene, social distancing and masking until a large portion of the public has been vaccinated.

2. If my loved one receives a vaccine, does this mean we can resume in-person visits?

Like you, we are anxious to open our centers and communities to visitors once again, and making progress through vaccination will help us reach those goals. We will continue to follow the guidance from state health officials that currently dictate visitation policies, which take into account many variables outside of our buildings, including your area's transmission rate and hospital capacities.