

COVID-19 vaccines provide protection against infection and are great tools that can be used to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The vaccine requires two doses. Residents will need to get both doses to ensure the best results. The second dose will be given approximately 21 to 28 days after the first dose.

Our contracted pharmacy partner is CVS Pharmacy, and consent forms for our vaccine clinic date are available on our website. Letters and consent forms will be mailed to resident's designated responsible party should they be unable to sign for consent.

Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines work with your immune system so your body can be prepared to fight the virus if you are exposed. By receiving the vaccine, you would be protecting yourself and others from getting COVID. Experts say that 75-85% of the population would need to receive the vaccine in order to achieve herd immunity, effectively halting the pandemic.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The side effects of the COVID vaccines can resemble the symptoms of the virus, but only last about a day and are more likely to appear after the second dose. Side effects can include fever, fatigue, muscle pain, and headaches. While the symptoms may not be pleasant, they are normal and a sign that your body is building immunity.

Will the vaccine be mandatory?

No, however, we encourage everyone to get a vaccine to ensure their health and the well-being of the community.

How much will the vaccine cost?

Residents and staff will **not** have to pay to receive the vaccine.

If I already had COVID-19, should I still get a vaccine?

Due to the health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a vaccine even if they have had COVID-19 previously.

There is not enough research to determine how long someone is protected after infection. If protection only lasts for several months, vaccination could be beneficial.

Can someone get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No, it is not possible to get COVID-19 from vaccines. COVID vaccines use inactivated virus, parts of the virus, or a gene from the virus, but none of those can cause infection.

Will we still need to wear masks and practice physical distancing once a vaccine is available?

We will still need to wear masks and practice social distancing until a large percentage of the population is vaccinated and we are sure the vaccine provides long-term protection. Initially, there will not be enough vaccines to vaccinate everyone who wants it, and the virus will still be transmitted.