



## Covid-19 Vaccination FAQ's

*We anticipate that many families will have questions regarding the Covid-19 vaccinations. We do know that the vaccination is new for every healthcare provider in the United States, but the vaccination process is not. Please see below for answers to questions that we anticipate receiving. If there is a question that you do not see here, please contact your social worker and we will get answers for you.*

**What is a MRNA Vaccine?** mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies. At this time, we are anticipating that we will receive COVID-19 Vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna.

### **How is the Covid-19 vaccine administered?**

The vaccine is administered as an intramuscular injection like the influenza vaccine.

### **How many doses are required?**

Both Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will require 2 doses effective.

### **How often do residents need to be vaccinated?**

The CDC has not issued any recommendations on how often people should be vaccinated and they do not know how long immunity lasts until there is more data on how well it works. Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

### **Is there a consent form to get the Covid-19 vaccine?**

Yes. Residents and representatives will need to sign and authorize a consent form to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

### **Can a resident or representative decline the vaccination?**

Yes. A declination form will be required to be completed and on file with the nursing home.

### **What happens when the Covid-19 vaccine is declined?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is only part of the plan to combat this pandemic. The CDC recommends that PPE is still used during the pandemic.

### **Are there side effects to the Covid-19 vaccination?**

As with any medication, there is risk for side effects. Residents will be monitored for any potential side effects. Vaccines have less side effects than most medications and it is always appropriate with any medication to weigh the benefits versus the risks.



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## **If a resident is ill, will they be given the Covid-19 vaccine?**

Residents who are exhibiting sign of illness or a fever of 100.4° or greater, will not be allowed to get the vaccine. They can wait until a later date to receive the vaccine.

## **Is there a cost to residents to receive the vaccine?**

There is no cost for the vaccine however we will obtain your insurance information to bill the insurance carrier for the administration fee if applicable.

## **What is the process for determining what residents/patients or staff will be eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine?**

NCHC is working closely with Wisconsin DHS and will proceed using the Phase 1A Allocation approach. COVID-19 vaccinations will be available for administration to residents/patients, employees, pending availability, phased approach due to patient population. NCHC has created a phased approach to support future implementation for all healthcare staff.

## **Who is providing the Covid-19 vaccinations?**

NCHC has partnered with Walgreens Pharmacy to administer Covid-19 vaccines to residents and staff. This is a program organized through the State of WI Department of Health Services. NCHC will be working in collaboration with our local public health to determine vaccine rationing.

## **If a resident has already tested positive for Covid-19, do they have to get the Covid-19 vaccination?**

There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again; this is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. The CDC has not issued recommendations on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine. NCHC recommends that all residents receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

## **Do residents need to continue to wear masks after they have completed both doses of the Covid-19 vaccination?**

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

## **Will residents be able to have visitors after they have been vaccinated?**

We currently allow restricted visitation and that will continue as we are able. It is too early to tell if the vaccine will allow to remove the visitation restrictions at this time. This is something that we will continue to monitor as the vaccination program progresses through our facility in addition to recommendations from CDC and local health department.



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## **Where can I find the best sources of information about the Covid-19 vaccine?**

NCHC receives our recommendations from the CDC and as we strongly recommend that the public do so as well. Information from other sources, including social media, may not be as up to date or accurate. Please visit the CDC's website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/>

### **Additional Resources:**

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine-<https://www.cvdvaccine.com/>