

COVID-19 Vaccination Update



VACCINE FAQs

As of December 23, 2020 / 11:00 a.m.

I want to get the vaccine! What do I need to do to prepare?

If your clinic has been scheduled, reach out to your supervisor to get signed up and to get your consent form, along with the fact sheets for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. You will also need to provide a current copy of both sides of your insurance card(s).

Which vaccine are we administering?

Erickson Living communities will be dispensing both the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. Which vaccine each community receives is determined by our distribution partner, CVS/Omnicare.

Will getting vaccinated really help protect the residents?

Yes, absolutely. In fact it is critical to providing protection to our residents, the most vulnerable population to COVID-19. It will also help protect your own personal close contacts from becoming ill.

How many shots will I have to get?

You need two doses of the Pfizer/Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. A second shot approximately three to four weeks after your first shot is needed to fully complete the vaccination process.

When does the vaccine start working?

According to the CDC, it takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. The Pfizer/Moderna vaccine for COVID-19 that requires two shots typically achieves the most protection it has to offer by two weeks after your second dose.

Do I still have to wear a mask after I've been fully vaccinated?

Yes, all employees and residents will still be required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth in public settings, even if they are fully vaccinated. It will still be critical to continue our core infection prevention safety practices of wearing a mask, social distancing, and hand hygiene.

How long in between shots?

You will need to return for the second dose approximately three to four weeks after the first dose, depending on the vaccine type you receive. The second dose of the Pfizer vaccine is administered 21 days after the first dose. The second dose of the Moderna vaccine is administered 28 days after the first dose.

What happens if I miss my second shot?

In order for the vaccine to be effective, it is imperative that you receive both doses within the allotted timeframe. If you must miss your second vaccination appointment, please alert the medical team immediately so that your appointment can be promptly rescheduled.

I have a pre-existing condition. Is it safe for me to get the vaccine?

You should speak to your primary care provider about whether it is appropriate for you to be vaccinated. If you have any of the CDC outlined [high-risk conditions](#) that put you at greater risk of developing serious illness if you contract COVID-19, we strongly encourage you to consider getting vaccinated. Again, please confirm this with your personal provider.

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I have concerns about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine. Who can address my questions?

Detailed information about the COVID-19 vaccine, FDA safety requirements, and other helpful information is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, <https://www.cdc.gov>. We also recommend that you speak to your primary health care provider, as your provider has the most complete and up-to-date information about your personal health and well-being.

Is it safe to take the vaccine if pregnant or lactating?

Pregnant or lactating individuals should discuss risks and benefits with their provider of getting vaccinated before proceeding. Studies show that there is no contraindication and they may get the vaccine if they choose to.

If resident or staff member has had COVID-19 is there a waiting period for them to be vaccinated?

Individuals who have had COVID-19, may receive vaccination after they have recovered and they are no longer in quarantine or isolation. We would suggest that you fill out your consent form, and final determination will be made at time of vaccination.

Why am I providing my insurance information? Will I be charged for the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is free to all employees and residents. Erickson Living will be charged an administration fee by CVS/Omnicare which is paid for by your insurance plan. This is why we must collect your insurance information. Be assured that you won't be charged any type of copay, regardless of your insurance plan.

What if I don't have insurance?

You will still be able to get the vaccine! The consent form has an area to indicate that information, but rest assured you will still be able to get the vaccine and it will be free of charge to you.

When/how soon can I get vaccinated?

The vaccination distribution schedule is still being developed by federal and state governments. As decisions are made, they are communicated to our vaccine distribution partner, CVS/Omnicare, who then passes along that information to us. We will alert you just as soon as details are available.

What agency decides when IL vaccinations occur? The decision on the next groups to get vaccinated ultimately lies with the State working in concert with the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

If I'm not scheduled to work the day the clinic is scheduled, will I be able to get vaccinated?

Yes, everyone who is eligible to receive the vaccine and consents, will be able to get the vaccine! In fact, if you are not scheduled to work, you will even be paid for coming in to get vaccinated.

Will you require residents/employees to get vaccinated?

Receiving the vaccine is not currently mandatory, but it is strongly recommended. If every medically eligible resident and employee does their part and gets vaccinated, it will be a huge step toward decreasing the prevalence of the COVID-19 virus and protecting the lives of everyone at the community.

If a resident or staff member declines the vaccine when it is offered and want it in say 6 months will they get it here or will they have to go to a site?

Future vaccine clinic availability is not certain since determination is made by the State, the Department

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of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and CVS, so we strongly advise that you take advantage of the current opportunity.

What happens if I miss the first vaccination clinic? Will additional clinics be scheduled throughout 2021?

Yes. At this point, we anticipate an additional opportunity to be available, however this is not guaranteed so we strongly recommend signing up for the first one you are eligible for.

What happens as we hire employees?

New hires will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine if they are eligible and can be scheduled.

Will vaccines be available to any resident or employee who wants one, including part time and flex employees?

Yes, we have requested enough vaccine to protect every resident and employee, including our part time and flex staff members. Distribution of the vaccine will be staggered, based on a schedule agreed upon by the state and our distribution partner, CVS/Omnicare. When your group is eligible to receive the vaccine, you will be notified and provided with all the details you need to schedule your vaccination appointments.

Where do I go to receive the vaccine? Will I have to wait in line?

Our goal is that residents will receive the vaccine in the comfort and privacy of their apartment home, similar to how 2020 flu vaccines were administered. Employee vaccines will be administered in a secure setting with all infection prevention protocols in place. Details about the exact location of your COVID-19 vaccine clinic are forthcoming.

Will the CVS vaccine team be COVID-19 tested?

Yes, the CVS team will be COVID-19 tested and verified as having negative test results before they arrive on campus to conduct the vaccine clinics.

Will the vaccination specialists have epi-pens with them should there be a reaction?

Yes, the CVS team will be bringing their own supply of epi-pens.

Will there be monitoring for symptoms following the vaccination?

Yes, there will be a monitoring period of fifteen minutes after vaccination per CDC protocol, for both residents and employees.

Can members of my household be vaccinated through Erickson Living?

CVS will be distributing just enough of the highly-sought-after vaccine to cover residents and employees. Your household members should speak to their primary care provider about when and where they can be vaccinated.

Will IL, when vaccine is available, be prioritized according to underlying health conditions?

Our objective will be to vaccinate as many residents and staff as possible. We expect to have adequate supplies for all residents and staff who request vaccination. However, in the event there are limited supplies, we will vaccinate in accordance with CDC guidance on prioritization.

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Can vaccine authorization forms be on My Erickson?

Sample consent forms along with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine fact sheets can be posted to My Erickson.

If I can get a COVID-19 vaccine sooner through another establishment, should I?

Yes, absolutely. The sooner we can get a majority of our staff and residents vaccinated, the closer we will be to stopping COVID-19. Please keep a copy of your immunization card and provide to the Medical Center or Employee Health and Wellness Center (EHWC) so we can record your vaccination in our systems.