

COVID-19 Update – December 31, 2020 – Vaccine Update

To: Resident, Family Members and Team Members – The Waters Senior Living

Hopefully you were able to review the initial communication about the COVID-19 vaccine that was distributed and posted on our web site on December 14, 2020. This communication provides an update since that time.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following information was obtained from the CDC, Leading Age, and from the health departments of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

Q: When will the vaccine be available to me?

A: While the exact dates are unknown at this time, we have been informed that long term care facilities (skilled nursing) will be receiving the vaccine this week and throughout the next few weeks. Each state's governor will work with hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, tribal health, local public health, and other vaccination partners to prioritize vaccine administration and timing. We anticipate the vaccine will be available in our Waters communities in the next several weeks, upon completion in the skilled nursing facilities.

Please know that the partnering pharmacies will be determining the exact date of the vaccine clinics at each community and The Waters does not have control over this timing. Further, the dates will be set with short notice and we will need to quickly assemble resources in order for the pharmacy to administer the vaccine. Rest assured, that we have a plan and have taken proactive steps to make this process execute as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Q: Who are the partnering pharmacies that The Waters is working with?

A: It varies by within the three states we operate in, as follows:

- Minnesota Waters communities – Thrifty White is a regional pharmacy partner that has been specializing in senior care for over thirty years and is a partner to The Waters.
- Wisconsin and Pennsylvania Waters communities – CVS, is a national healthcare company that provides a suite of integrated services, including pharmacy.

Q: Should I be tested for COVID prior to receiving the vaccine?

In our original FAQ, we had indicated that this was not required. However, upon further guidance and clarification from partnering pharmacies, we will now include testing prior to administration of the vaccine. The reason for this is that if you have active COVID, it is recommended that you refrain from receiving the vaccine until the isolation period is completed.

Q: How long will The Waters Senior Living monitor for the side effects following vaccine administration?

A: Based on current information, guidance from our partnering pharmacies, and vaccine protocols, we are planning to monitor residents and team members for any side effects for an observation period of 15 minutes immediately following vaccine administration, and up to 30 minutes for those with known adverse side effects. The Waters is still working on details with our partnering pharmacies and will communicate more as information becomes available.

Q: If I currently have COVID, can I receive the vaccine?

A: No, it is recommended that the vaccination be deferred until the infection is resolved and the isolation period is completed.

Q: If I am currently in a quarantine period due to exposure from another person with COVID, can I receive the vaccine?

A: No, not until the isolation period has been completed.

Q: If I have received a different vaccine (i.e. Flu vaccine) within the past fourteen days, can I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: No, you should wait to receive the COVID-19 vaccine until fourteen days has passed since the administration of the non-COVID vaccine.

Q: If I'm under 18 years of age, am I able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Based on the vaccine that we are receiving (Moderna), individuals under the age of 18 are not eligible to receive the vaccine. The Waters is working collaboratively with our leading industry association who is working with the state departments of health to influence an alternative solution.

We understand that if the partnering pharmacy is CVS (WI and PA), then those team members who are age 18, must receive parental consent. We are in the process of finding out more information related to this requirement for CVS.

Q: Is getting the vaccine a mandatory requirement?

A: While some employers may mandate getting the vaccine as a condition of employment, The Waters, at this time, does not. We are providing resources and education to both residents and team members to empower them with information that will aid in their personal decision. At this time, we are pleased to report that the initial participation rate for vaccination consent is strong for both residents and team members. This is good news in our fight against COVID.

We will continue to keep you informed as information evolves. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please reach out to your Executive Director.