

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS YOU CAN USE

December 11, 2020
Issue 2

New Perspective

The recent news about the COVID-19 vaccines has us excited about the future. We're looking forward to providing as much information about how this will impact our residents and team members. To keep you well informed, every couple days over the coming weeks, you can expect to receive an issue of Vaccine News You Can Use from us. We'll be sharing the latest vaccine news and updates, answering your questions, and dispelling myths and rumors about the vaccines. We'll also be sending around letters, videos, tips, and answers to frequently asked questions as we orchestrate vaccination for our residents and team members.

Get the vaccine—our best shot at getting back to normal.

THE HEADLINE

Sufficient vaccine will be made available for everyone, starting with healthcare workers and residents of long-term care communities.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Who can get the vaccine first?

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has accepted the recommendations of an advisory council that healthcare workers and residents in long-term care facilities should be among the first to be vaccinated.
- The CDC's advisory council recommended the following order for the first phase of pandemic vaccination—the exact timeframe is not yet established:
 - **Phase 1-A:** Healthcare workers and individuals residing in long-term care facilities, including skilled nursing and assisted living communities.
 - **Phase 1-B:** Non-healthcare essential workers—for example, individuals in the following sectors: education, food and agriculture, utilities, police, firefighters, corrections, and transportation.
 - **Phase 1-C:** Adults 65+ years old and adults with high-risk medical conditions.
- After Phase 1, the CDC will recommend additional vaccination scheduling to the states.
- It is currently believed that somewhere between early Summer and Fall 2021, all adults who want to receive a COVID-19 vaccination should be able to receive it.

Will there be enough vaccine for everyone?

- Yes; over time. While there will be a limited supply at first, manufacturing and distribution of the vaccine to the public will take time. As detailed above, the CDC estimates that additional phases of vaccine distribution, which includes the general public, will occur in early Summer and Fall 2021.

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Can a person with COVID-19 get the vaccine?

- Yes, but not while ill. As with other vaccines, like influenza and shingles, it is recommended that those actively experiencing symptoms of illness do not get the vaccine until no longer ill.

WHAT'S IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue we send of Vaccine News You Can Use will answer the question “Are the coming COVID-19 vaccines safe?” by addressing:

- Can the vaccine give you COVID-19?
- Are there side effects to the vaccine?
- How do I know the vaccine is safe?

If you have questions about Vaccine News You Can Use, please reach out to your executive director.