

COVID-19 Vaccine Update



EXCITING NEWS — the COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available at our communities! Merrill has partnered with CVS Pharmacies to distribute the vaccine to all residents and team members. While the timing is still to be determined, here is what we know now.

Q. How will the vaccine be distributed?

A. CVS will bring the vaccine to the community and their trained team will administer the vaccine to all residents and team members. Because this vaccine requires two doses to be effective, CVS will visit the community at three different times to ensure everyone gets the needed doses. We will notify you of the exact dates for our community as soon as we have them.

Q. Why does Merrill have early access to the vaccine?

A. Because seniors are at high risk of complications from the virus, it has been determined that residents and team members living and working at senior living communities will receive high priority for the vaccine.

Q. What is the cost of the vaccine?

A. There is no cost for the vaccine. Team members just need to provide their insurance card if they have one and residents will need to provide their Medicare card at the time of the vaccination.

Q. Can I get COVID-19 by taking the vaccine?

A. No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. All vaccines are designed to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight infections. Sometimes this process can cause minor symptoms, but these are a normal sign that the body is building immunity.

Q. How long does it take for the vaccine to work?

A. The vaccine requires two doses to be effective and it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after the second vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccination helps protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness.

Q. Will the vaccine cause me to test positive on a COVID-19 test?

A. No. The vaccine will not cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.

Q. Should I get the vaccination if I already had COVID-19?

A. Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, it is advised that people who have had the virus receive the vaccination.

