



COVID-19 Vaccination at Messiah Lifeways FAQs For Nursing Residents & Family Members

In January 2021, the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be available for Messiah Lifeways team members and Skilled Nursing residents. Below are some frequently asked questions.

How are the vaccines being administered? CVS Pharmacy is coordinating and administering the vaccinations.

Who will receive the vaccine? Enough doses will be available for all Nursing Residents and all Team Members to receive the vaccine; however, Messiah Lifeways will NOT be mandating it. Only those who provide consent will receive it.

When will the booster (2nd dose) be available? The booster must be administered at least three weeks after the first dose. We expect it to be in February; however, an exact date has not yet been confirmed by CVS.

After vaccinations are complete, will visitation restrictions be loosened? Not yet. The restrictions are regulatory and determined by the PA Department of Health (DOH), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Messiah Lifeways will continue to follow their guidance and be responsibly proactive in our care for residents. Our hope is that the spread of the virus will greatly lessen throughout the state over the coming months and a safe return to "normal" will be possible. We will be sure to keep you informed when updated guidance has been received.

From the CDC: "Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19."

Where can I learn more about the mRNA technology used to make the new vaccines? CDC resource: [Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if my loved one has underlying medical condition(s)? *From the CDC: "Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying health problems like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 disease itself and need protection provided by the vaccine."*

Is there anyone who should NOT receive the vaccine? Whether or not to receive the vaccine is a choice best made between yourself and your physician. Here are some specific considerations:

*Concerning **severe allergic reactions**, the CDC recommends: "If you have ever had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient in a COVID-19 vaccine, CDC recommends that you should not get that specific vaccine. If you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies, you should ask your doctor if you should get a COVID-19 vaccine. Your doctor will help you decide if it is safe for you to get vaccinated."* [COVID-19 Vaccines and Severe Allergic Reactions](#)