

## COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ Sheet

*The following information has been gathered in response to questions raised by residents and in preparation for the Orchard Ridge on-site vaccination clinics for residents. In addition, the following Virginia Department of Health and CDC website links to vaccination FAQ sheets are provided as a resource.*

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-faq/vaccination/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

*If you have questions to which you are unable to find answers using these resources, you can reach out to the Path Forward Team: Stacey Iden, Sheila Blaner, Bill Boldin, Karen Coon, BJ Custer, Mark Keif and Missy Sellers.*

### Where do I go with questions on the day of the vaccination clinic?

- There will be an information table set up in the Lobby during the vaccine clinic. Please visit this table for information. If you are unable to visit the Lobby and have questions or need to cancel an appointment, please call Lauren Gwinn, 607-353-0558.

### What room locations are being used for the scheduled appointments?

- COVID-19 testing, your first scheduled appointment on the vaccination clinic day, will take place in the Garden and Solarium rooms in North Dining.
- Vaccine administration, your second scheduled appointment on the vaccination clinic day, will take place in the Chapel.

### What should I wear to participate in the vaccine clinic?

- A mask, covering both your nose and mouth, must be worn at all times. Be sure to wear short sleeves, or some type of loose-fitting garment with easy access to your upper arm to receive the vaccine.

### Should I arrive early to my appointments?

- No, please arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before your scheduled appointments because of room capacity limits and social distancing requirements.

### If I miss my first scheduled appointment to receive the COVID-19 testing, can I still get my vaccine at my scheduled appointment time?

- Walgreens, our vaccination clinic provider, requires COVID-19 testing prior to vaccinations. If you miss your first appointment for the testing, you may not be able to receive the vaccine at your later second appointment of the day. If you do miss your first appointment, you need to visit the information table set up in the Lobby on the vaccination clinic day to receive guidance on next steps, or call Lauren Gwinn at 607-353-0558.

### Can I return to my apartment or cottage to rest and wait between my first and second appointments?

- Yes. We encourage you to continue with your daily routines and arrive to your scheduled appointments no sooner than 5 minutes before your appointment times.

**What type of COVID testing is being used? Why is testing necessary? And, when will my results be available?**

- While Walgreens is requiring the test, we are using BD Veritor nasopharyngeal rapid tests that we received from the Department of Health and Human Services so it will be at no cost to the residents. After testing, residents will be prompted to wait for their test results. Each resident will receive a ticket that says “COVID Free” to take to their designated vaccination appointment.

**What if I test positive for the virus on the day of the vaccination clinic?**

- If you test positive, the social services director or designee will instruct you on next steps to include: quarantine guidance, contact tracing inquiry, and possible coordination of the vaccine as part of future clinics.

**If my spouse or housemate tests positive and is not able to get the vaccine during the clinic, will I still be able to receive the vaccine if I test negative?**

- Yes. All persons who test negative have the opportunity to receive the vaccine as scheduled.

**What happens if I test positive at my second scheduled clinic? How and where will I receive the second dose of the vaccine?**

- If you test positive at the January 24 clinic, we will work with you to try and schedule appointments to participate in the February 14 and March 7 clinics. If you test positive at either the February 14 or March 7 clinics, either the social worker or Lauren Gwinn from myPotential, or their designee, will facilitate a conversation to determine next steps that might include finding another provider in the area to complete the vaccine series.

**What type of vaccine is being administered?**

- The mRNA Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is being administered intramuscularly. The vaccine series consists of two doses, received approximately 3 weeks (21 days) apart.

**When can the second dose of the vaccine be administered? Is there a grace period?**

- The CDC recommends that persons should not be scheduled to receive the second dose earlier than recommended (i.e., 3 weeks [Pfizer-BioNTech] or 1 month [Moderna]). However, second doses administered within a grace period of 4 days earlier than the recommended date for the second dose are still considered valid. Doses inadvertently administered earlier than the grace period do not need to be repeated. There is no maximum interval between the first and second doses for either vaccine. Therefore, if the second dose is administered >3 weeks after the first Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine dose or >1 month after the first Moderna vaccine dose, there is no need to restart the series.

**Are the current COVID-19 vaccines interchangeable?**

- Per the CDC, currently available mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are not interchangeable with each other or with other COVID-19 vaccine products. The safety and efficacy of a mixed-product series have not been evaluated. Both doses of the series should be completed with the same product. However, if two doses of different mRNA COVID-19 vaccine products are inadvertently administered, no additional doses of either product are recommended at this time.

**What happens to the thawed vaccine that was allotted for me if I am not able to get the vaccine as scheduled?**

- Vaccine providers have been instructed to avoid vaccine wastage to the greatest extent possible. They are also equipped and prepared to use the leftover vaccines at a different vaccination site or to vaccinate eligible individuals outside of the Orchard Ridge community. Thus, it is important for facilities to provide a precise number beforehand to the pharmacy to avoid vaccine wastage.

**When will I receive the vaccination card to show that I have been vaccinated?**

- A vaccination card will be used to record your first vaccine at the on-campus vaccination clinic. In order to streamline the process and to prevent misplacement of the vaccination cards between administration of the first and second doses, the Orchard Ridge team assisting with the coordination of the clinic will keep all vaccination cards until residents have received their second vaccine. Once distributed, vaccination cards should be kept by each resident in a safe and accessible location.

**What happens if I am not able to get both doses of vaccine at an on-site clinic at Orchard Ridge?**

- You may request to access your vaccination card at any time from Orchard Ridge during the two-dose process and then use another provider in the area to complete the vaccine series.

**What if I don't feel well in the hours, days and weeks following the vaccination?**

- As indicated on the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 fact sheet, call 911 for emergency needs or call your healthcare provider if you have side effects that bother you or do not go away.

**If I require an ER visit or hospitalization due to side effects from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, will I have to follow the Orchard Ridge quarantine protocols?**

- Yes. Current protocols require that residents quarantine following a visit to the ER or hospital.

**Can I stop wearing a mask and practicing social distancing once I have received the vaccine?**

- No. You must continue to wear a mask and social distance until further notice. As a community, we continue to follow the expert advice of the CDC, DOH and other known sources. The CDC reports that not enough information is currently available to say if or when the CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision. We also don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic.

**Why can outside visitors come in but we can't visit each other in our own apartments if we tested negative for the virus?**

- In order to prevent the possible chain of exposure, the current Orchard Ridge visitor guidelines do recommend that residents don't visit residents in their apartments or cottages because this increases the risk of exposure. The Path Forward Team is continuing to review CDC and other expert information to determine if there is an opportunity to change our current protocols.