



***COVID-19 Vaccination Q & A
12/22/2020***

The approval of two vaccines by the Food and Drug Administration for use against COVID-19 is welcome news, but there are still many steps ahead to begin the process of vaccinations in our Springpoint communities. To address the many questions we have received from residents, family members and staff, we have developed the following Q & A:

Q. Who is managing the vaccination process?

A. Operation Warp Speed is the federal government's initiative to implement the vaccination of Americans against COVID-19. They are working in coordination with federal, state and local agencies to implement the plan. Since supplies of the vaccine will be limited at first, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has made recommendations on the priority order of who will receive the vaccines. As vaccines become available by the manufacturers, they will be distributed through Operation Warp Speed based on the priority determined by ACIP.

Q. What is the priority order for vaccinations?

A. The first priority group designated by ACIP as Phase 1a includes 24 million healthcare workers, residents and staff of nursing homes (skilled nursing, rehabilitation and assisted living). According to the ACIP independent living residents are not included in the Phase 1a priority group. Under the ACIP recommendation, the second priority group, Phase 1b, includes 19 million elderly people 75-plus and 30 million essential frontline workers. They will begin to get their shots after those in group 1a have been taken care of. After group 1b has been vaccinated, 129 million people in group 1c would come next. ACIP says that group includes 28 million Americans ages 65 to 74, 20 million other essential workers and 81 million people ages 16 to 64 who have high risk factors for the coronavirus.

Q. When will Springpoint begin vaccinations?

A. Unfortunately, we are not in control of the timing of when we receive the vaccines and what quantity we will receive. We are waiting on information from federal and state health officials regarding the exact date when we will receive the vaccines and can begin administering to those in Phase 1a. As soon as each community has been provided their vaccination dates and times, that information will be communicated to their staff, residents and family members.

Q. How will the vaccinations be administered?

A. Federal agencies have partners with CVS and Walgreens to provide end-to-end management of the vaccination process including storage, handling cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements. These partners will provide safe and effective on-site vaccinations in our communities. Each Springpoint community has been in touch with either CVS or Walgreens to coordinate vaccination clinics – so we are ready to go as soon as we receive confirmation on when the vaccination process will begin.

Q. When will Independent Living residents receive their vaccinations?

A. Right now, we don't have that information from the federal and state officials regarding vaccinations for IL residents. It will depend on the manufacturing and distribution process and how quickly those in the first priority phase are vaccinated.

Q. How can I get vaccinated?

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available. Once the vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers. Our Springpoint communities plan to offer vaccination clinics through the CVS and Walgreens partners as soon as we are able to do so.

Q. What will it cost to be vaccinated?

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot. Vaccination providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund

Q. Is the COVID-19 vaccination required by staff and/or residents?

While we highly recommend that all staff members and residents receive the vaccination to prevent the spread of the virus, it is not required.