

COVID-19 Vaccine

Q&A for Goodwin House Residents – Dec. 11, 2020

Goodwin House has been notified by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) that our residents and staff will be among the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This is positive news and indicates how the State of the Virginia is dedicated to providing help and resources to senior living and care organizations such as Goodwin House.

Goodwin House understands that you may have questions about the vaccine and want to learn more. That is why we are providing this Q&A on the vaccines, the clinical trials that took place and the safety of the vaccines for everyone, especially diverse populations who have expressed concerns about the vaccines.

This reflects the information we have received to date on the vaccines and when/how residents and staff will be vaccinated. As we learn more, we will update you. At any time, please feel free to send your questions about the vaccine to covidquestions@goodwinhouse.org and we will reply as soon as possible.

Q. Will Goodwin House be receiving a vaccine?

A. Yes, we have been informed by VDH that Goodwin House is on the initial vaccination schedule. The vaccine will be administered through CVS COVID-19 vaccination teams.

CVS will host several “vaccine clinics” at each Goodwin House campus that could start as soon as late December. Special CVS vaccination teams will deliver the vaccines and vaccinate residents and staff. Over the next few weeks, our health care teams will prepare the paperwork for residents that must be completed in advance of the clinics. As part of this paperwork, each resident will be required to sign a consent form if they choose to take the vaccine.

Q: Which vaccine will be administered at Goodwin House, and is it safe? Is it also safe for diverse populations and people with various health conditions?

A: We expect to receive the vaccine developed by Moderna, a U.S.-based company that specializes in therapeutics of the type used to vaccinate against the coronavirus. The Moderna Trial had 30,000 volunteers. Here are some facts on the Moderna clinical trials:

We are committed to keeping residents and staff healthy. Please join us in our efforts to keep our communities infection-free.



- No one who received the vaccine developed severe COVID disease or died.
- The Moderna vaccine does not contain an active strain of the coronavirus.
- 37% of the participants in the Moderna trial were racially diverse, including Black people and Latino people.
- The Moderna vaccine achieved 94.1% protection from having a COVID-19 infection; this protection percentage held for people of different ethnicities, races and ages.
- One of the scientific leaders of the Vaccine Research Center's team is Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett, PhD, an African American immunologist.

Q. What are the side effects of the vaccine?

A. Here are the side effects and what to know about them:

- Some people may have short-term discomfort: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and pain at injection site after vaccination.
- Side effects mean your body is doing its job and making antibodies; this is a good thing even though it may not feel good.
- These side effects are normal, common and expected.

Q: Why should I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Three simple reasons: it protects you, those you love and those around you. The vaccine will help stop the spread of COVID-19 among residents and staff, and in our homes and neighborhoods.

Q: How will the vaccine be given?

A: At this time, we believe the vaccine that will be given to Goodwin House residents and staff is a two-dose vaccine with the second dose given 21 to 28 days after the first dose. It is our understanding at this time that the first clinic will begin in late December or early January.

Q. Will staff be required to receive the vaccine to continue working at Goodwin House?

A. Goodwin House is dedicated to the health and safety of all residents, members and staff. We are currently evaluating a staff policy regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, though strongly encourage staff to receive the vaccination to ensure the safety of residents and coworkers. We recognize that some staff may have religious or medical concerns for being vaccinated, and we will address those individually.

Q: Will residents be required to receive the vaccine to continue living at Goodwin House?

A: It is our understanding that the majority of residents want to be vaccinated and we will encourage them to do so. Any residents who have medical or religious concerns about being vaccinated will meet with our infection control nurses and the executive director of their campus to discuss their concerns.

Q. Who will pay for the vaccinations?

A. Residents will not incur any costs to receive the vaccine. The U.S Federal Government is paying for the vaccine itself. Medicare and insurance providers will be billed to cover the cost of the administration of the vaccines. We do not anticipate a copay.

Q. Will we continue with infection precaution measures and PPE after the vaccinations?

A. Yes, we will continue to practice our infection precaution protocols until we reach a threshold where enough people have been vaccinated.

Have additional questions?

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