



COVID-19 Vaccine/Testing Policy

PURPOSE:

To provide and maintain an environment that is free of known hazards and to safeguard the health of our employees and their families, our residents and visitors; and the community at large from infectious diseases, such as COVID-19 or influenza, which may be reduced by vaccinations. This policy will comply with all applicable laws and guidance.

EMPLOYEES

Employees attending the new hire orientation will be provided with the FAQ informational sheet from the CDC to provide education on the vaccine and to aid with questions they may have about vaccine safety.

Newly hired employees will be asked if they have previously received their COVID-19 vaccine and if they indicate yes, the facility will request a copy of their vaccine record as part of their employee health record and give them a sticker for their employment badge. Employees that are unable to provide a copy of their vaccination card will have their information checked in NYSIIS to verify receiving the vaccine. Employees that have not had the vaccine will be given the opportunity to accept the receipt of the vaccine or decline receiving the vaccine and will be asked to complete the vaccine accept or declination form.

If an employee would like to receive the vaccine, the facility will make arrangements with our pharmacy to take receipt of the vaccine and notify them when it is available for administration. Any employee that declines the vaccine will be notified that they can change their mind at any time and arrangements will be made for administration of the vaccine.

Minor employees accepting the vaccine will be provided with a list of locations in the area offering the Pfizer vaccination. If necessary, the facility will help facilitate an appointment for the newly hired minor with parental consent.

Human Resources will notify Administration of that status of all employees during new hire orientation. The Employee Health Department will maintain COVID status of vaccination in the employee health records.

Any employee refusing vaccination or who has not been fully vaccinated will be subjected to the CDC testing schedule: if the county positivity rate is < 5% they will be tested monthly, if the rate is 5-10% it will be weekly testing, and if > 10% then testing will be 2 times per week. Fully vaccinated personnel will no longer be required to test. Staff with signs or symptoms of COVID-19, whether fully vaccinated or not, must receive a COVID-19 test immediately, along with any other medically-appropriate testing, and are expected to be restricted from the facility pending the results of COVID-19 testing. If COVID-19 is confirmed, facilities and staff must follow the NYSDOH return to work requirements for facility staff working in nursing homes. Staff that do not test positive for COVID-19 but have symptoms should follow facility policies to determine when they can return to work. Regardless of the frequency of testing being performed or the facility's COVID-19 status, the facility must continue to screen all staff, resident, and all persons entering the facility, such as vendors, volunteers, and visitors for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

RESIDENTS

Residents/Responsible Parties will receive the FAQ sheet, in the admission packet, from the CDC providing education on the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Admission's Department will track newly admitted residents for vaccination status and will request the documentation be brought into the facility. Residents and/or Responsible Parties that are unable to provide a copy of the resident's vaccination card will have their information checked in NYSIIS to verify receiving the vaccine.

If the resident has not been vaccinated, they will be afforded the opportunity to review and ask questions of the social worker and complete the accept/decline form. If a resident would like to receive the vaccine, the facility will make arrangements with our pharmacy to take receipt of the vaccine and notify them when it is available for administration. Any resident that declines the vaccine will be notified that they can change their mind at any time and arrangements will be made for administration of the vaccine.

No less than quarterly, the Social Work Department will re-approach residents that have previously declined to see if they would now like to receive the vaccine and document their responses. Social Work will communicate to Administration any resident that wishes to receive the vaccine.

Tracking is performed by Administration for both employees and residents as to vaccination status.

Residents who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, whether fully vaccinated or not, must be tested immediately. While test results are pending, residents with signs or symptoms should be

placed on transmission-based precautions in accordance with CDC guidance. Once test results are obtained, the facility must take the appropriate actions based on the results.

OUTBREAK TESTING

An outbreak is defined as a new COVID-19 infection in any healthcare personnel (HCP) or any nursing home-onset COVID-19 infection in a resident. In an outbreak investigation, rapid identification and isolation of new cases is critical in stopping further viral transmission.

Upon identification of a single new case of COVID-19 infection in any HCP or residents, all HCP and residents, regardless of vaccination status, should be tested immediately and all HCP and residents who test negative should be retested every 3 days to 7 days until testing identifies no new cases of COVID-19 infection among HCP or residents for a period of at least 14 days since the most recent positive result.