



To: IKF Residents, Responsible Parties, and Staff  
From: Michelle F. Kraus, ED *Mé*  
Date: December 17, 2020  
RE: COVID-19 Vaccine

We are beginning to better understand the process for the COVID-19 vaccination distribution. While there is still so much that we do not know, we want to share what we do know with you today.

The vaccine requires two doses to be given roughly 21 days apart. Each person receiving the vaccine will need to have both doses to be protected from the virus.

**Is the vaccine safe?**

I plan to receive the vaccine and hope to set an example that the vaccine is very safe, highly effective, and that its widespread use will end this pandemic. While each person must make their own health care choices, the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has evaluated the vaccine and approved its use in the general population. The vaccine has been tested on people, including seniors, in clinical trials over the last several months, and the FDA has found that it is extremely safe and highly effective.

**Who will receive the initial allotment of vaccine?**

The initial allotment of vaccines will include nursing home residents and health care employees who routinely interact with nursing home residents. Maryland received 155,000 doses of the immunization in its first shipment. Still, this first shipment will not cover the state's 300,000 medical employees. Governor Hogan hopes to secure an additional 300,000 inoculations by the end of the year.

It's going to be a while before the vaccine has widespread circulation. The rollout will occur in four phases: 1A, 1B, 2 and 3. Medical front liners, first responders and individuals in long-term care (LTC) facilities, nursing homes, are at the top of the list in group 1A. In Maryland, there are approximately 800,000 people to be vaccinated in Group 1A. Once completed, the next high-risk group of Maryland residents, Group 1B, will receive the vaccine. When we know more about the timelines for these populations, we will let you know.

**When will the vaccination process begin?**

Ingleside at King Farm's Skilled Nursing Neighborhood is scheduled to receive

- The first vaccination distribution on December 23, 2020.
- The second vaccine is currently scheduled for January 13, 2021.

We have experienced date changes this week. Therefore, the above dates are not set in stone.

### **How will the vaccine be distributed and administered?**

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has partnered with Walgreens and CVS pharmacies to administer COVID vaccine to LTC facilities. CVS will provide the vaccination to IKF. They will send a trained inoculation team to our community and they will provide all the supplies to safely and effectively administer the vaccine. Our staff will not provide the vaccine but will play a supporting role. We received an initial confirmation email from CVS. The process, as we understand it, is:

IKF will be assigned two (2) clinic dates by CVS.

- Clinic Day 1 will be to administer the first injection to staff and residents in the priority group 1A.
- Clinic Day 2 will be scheduled roughly 21 days later and will be for the 2<sup>nd</sup> injection.
- At the end of Clinic Day 2, a 3<sup>rd</sup> clinic day may be scheduled if needed.

For IKF staff, there will be no make-up days. This is an unprecedented rollout of a lifesaving vaccine. CVS will be here for the clinic days as scheduled and then they will move on to other facilities. If you are not available on the scheduled day, then you will miss the vaccine.

### **Where will the vaccination be provided?**

- For residents, the CVS team will administer room to room in the nursing center.
- For staff, the plan to is to use the dining area on the Lincoln Grove neighborhood.

### **Which of the two approved vaccines will be provided?**

We understand that we will receive the Pfizer vaccine.

### **Is there a cost to receive the vaccine?**

There is no out of pocket cost. CVS will bill Medicare. Employee's private insurances will also be billed. If you are uninsured, you can still get the vaccine. You will be asked to sign a form that says you have no insurance. Employees must have their insurance information with them on both vaccine days.

### **Is the vaccine mandatory?**

No. IKF will not require the vaccine as a condition of continued residency or employment. You will be asked to sign a consent form or a declination form; depending on your choice. Family members of residents who are unable to make that choice will be contacted by phone for verbal consent/declination.

### **Will we continue with infection precaution measures and PPE after the vaccinations?**

Yes, we will continue to practice our infection precaution protocols and community restrictions. We will continue to follow CMS, CDC, and local and state guidance. The number of new cases and county positivity rate must decline to a level where we are all safe.

### **Can we all relax and go back to normal again now that a vaccine is here?**

No. First, a person is not protected until the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is given. Second, most of the population must achieve immunity before the pandemic is over. **This journey will take months.** The crisis is worse than it has ever been, and we must not let our guard down. Over 1,000 people die every day in the US from COVID. Our lives, and the lives of those we love, depend on our actions.

### **Travel Restrictions?**

Effective today, under Governor Hogan's emergency order, state residents who travel outside of Maryland — and anyone who travels to Maryland — must either obtain a negative COVID-19 test result or quarantine for 10 days. "You are safer at home for the holidays this year," Hogan said. "It will save lives." Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., are exempt from the order. "If you don't have to travel, please don't," said Gregory Slater, the state's transportation secretary. Gov. Larry Hogan announced that he would require Marylanders to limit travel to essential purposes only, saying contact tracing consistently shows that social gatherings and travel lead to the highest risk of coronavirus exposure.

In closing, the IKF Community is my number priority. Kindly be patient with leadership as we collect information, participate on multiple association and state facilitated calls, and receive guidance from CMS. We are sensitive to the holiday spirit and are acknowledging the many celebrations right here at IKF. Keep smiling, keep shining, spread joy and giggle at the little things.