



### **This is a unique opportunity for Village residents.**

Village Management Services is working in partnership with MemorialCare and the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) to bring a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for Village residents. As COVID-19 vaccine doses become available, OCHCA is allocating them to Laguna Woods Village, and MemorialCare will be assisting by administering them.

We hope these FAQs help answer your questions about the vaccination process and the vaccine itself.

### **Who is going to provide my vaccination?**

Volunteer physicians and nurses with MemorialCare or other certified volunteer medical personnel.

### **What is the government's process for vaccine distribution?**

Once the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approve a vaccine for distribution, it goes through a multi-step allocation and distribution process, beginning with the government allocating vaccine doses to the states. The states then allocate to counties. The counties, through their public health departments, allocate to the hospitals and clinics that will be administering the vaccine. The vaccine manufacturer or distributor is responsible for directly shipping the dosages to the hospitals and clinics.

### **I've been hearing of California's super vaccine PODs. Can I get vaccinated there?**

The state and county have set up vaccine super POD (point-of-dispensing) stations, like the one you may have heard about at Disneyland. Much of the state's limited vaccine supply is being directed to these large sites. Orange County residents have the option to sign up for vaccination at one of the county organized sites by going to [Othena.com](https://Othena.com).

### **What if I am not willing to wait, or if I have a preexisting condition that I believe should qualify me to be vaccinated ahead of my fellow residents in the specified age category?**

You are welcome to seek vaccination outside the Village at one of the points of distribution (POD) being run by OCHCA by first making an appointment at [Othena.com](https://Othena.com).

## Which vaccines are available?

Currently, there are two vaccines approved for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA):

**The Pfizer and German partner BioNTech Vaccine** was the first to receive EUA from the FDA on December 11, 2020.

- 95% efficacy
- Requires two doses, 21 days apart
- Recommended for ages 16 and above

**The Moderna (in partnership with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases) Vaccine** received EUA from the FDA on December 18, 2020.

- 94.5% efficacy
- Requires two doses, 28 days apart
- Recommended for ages 18 and above

Both vaccines are administered similar to a flu shot and are given in the muscle of the upper arm.

In general, after a person receives the first dose of a vaccine, they will start to develop some immunity within two to four weeks, but this is not full or sufficient immunity to protect against disease. The vaccines require the second “booster” dose to reach full 94.5% or 95% immunity which can take an additional week after receiving the second dose. As for how long the immunity lasts, this is still not fully known. At this point, we cannot say whether repeat vaccination, for instance on an annual basis, will be necessary.

## Is the vaccine safe?

Each of the two vaccines have undergone multiple phases of clinical trials. In late-stage trials, they have been tested and monitored on tens of thousands of human volunteers.

Additionally, the FDA, which has the power to quickly approve medical products during times of public health emergencies, has stated that although the COVID-19 vaccines are being fast-tracked, their testing process has closely mirrored the standard rigorous testing and approval process that any non-emergency vaccine would require before it is approved.

MemorialCare’s medical experts have studied the findings of these clinical trials and the scientific data and agree with the CDC and FDA recommendations that the vaccines are safe, effective and will lead to a significant reduction in the spread of the virus.

## Do I have a choice of which vaccine I receive?

The simple answer is no. Whichever is made available by the OCHCA is what you will be administered at that time. You can choose not to receive the vaccine in the Village and can choose to seek vaccination through another distribution channel.

## Are there any possible side effects or concerns?

It is possible you may experience side effects after vaccination. This is normal. Recipients have complained of pain at the injection site, fatigue, chills, fever, muscle aches and headaches.

**WARNING:**

People who have a history of anaphylaxis to another vaccine or injectable medication should be carefully monitored for 30 minutes if they choose to get the vaccine. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic overreaction of the body's immune system, which can be life-threatening. Those concerned or who have been told by their healthcare provider to carry an EpiPen should speak with their physician before receiving the vaccine.

**Should I get vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?**

The CDC recommends that people who have had COVID-19 still be vaccinated. The risk of reinfection is very low in the first 90 days, so some people may choose to wait that long, but that is not necessary. People with current COVID-19 symptoms should wait, however, until their acute illness has resolved before being vaccinated.

Because this is a new virus, we are still learning about short and long-term immunity. Medical professionals are not certain how long a person can remain immune after having been infected. Therefore, those vaccinated will either gain immunity or potentially extend or strengthen existing immunity.

**Once I am vaccinated, will I still need to follow precautionary measures?**

Because it will take time to vaccinate and immunize everyone and there is a small chance that a vaccinated person can still get and spread the infection without getting sick themselves, it is strongly advised that even after being vaccinated, you continue to social distance, mask, and wash your hands frequently.

**Will my spouse or other family members who reside with me be vaccinated at the same time?**

Each individual will be scheduled separately with their own appointment time. We understand this may present an inconvenience and apologize for some of the limitations we must work within. Again, if you feel it is more convenient to seek vaccination through other distribution sources, please do so.

**I got vaccinated but my spouse/domestic partner/roommate did not. Has the vaccine made me contagious?**

No, the COVID-19 vaccine does not contain SARS-CoV-2 and cannot give you COVID-19.

**I am a healthcare professional and would like to volunteer to assist with the vaccination program. How should I proceed?**

The MemorialCare team is coordinating volunteers. [Please click here to fill out the Laguna Woods Residents Vaccination Clinic Volunteer Sign-up Form.](#)

## **How are appointments being made?**

It is imperative that you do not come to Clubhouse 7 without an appointment. Those who arrive at Clubhouse 7 without an appointment will not be vaccinated.

Appointments are being made in random order. If you have an email on file with the Resident Services Department, an appointment will be made for you and you will be notified of your appointment via email from MemorialCare.

If you do not have access to email, you will be notified by telephone.

## **What steps must I take prior to receiving the vaccine?**

**In order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the following form first must be completed\*:**

- **Consent & Administration form**

*\*Please bring your completed form with you to the vaccination clinic. For those who do not have access to a computer and printer, hard-copy forms will be available at the clinic.*

## **How do I get the paperwork?**

If you have an email address on file with the Village Management Services Resident Services Department, you will receive an email notification from MemorialCare. The appointment notification will include the necessary vaccine consent and administration form, as well as other informational documents. Please print the consent and administration form and complete it before you arrive at Clubhouse 7. If you do not have access to a computer and printer, hard-copy forms will be available on-site at the clinic.

## **What else should I know about appointments?**

If you wish to be vaccinated, please make it a priority and make every possible effort to keep the appointment assigned to you. Remember this is a volunteer effort made possible by the personal generosity of many volunteers. Please respect and understand that resources are limited, and we cannot halt operations to manage rescheduling.

## **I need the assistance of a caregiver or family member.**

Those who require assistance may be accompanied by one other individual. However, you will be the only one vaccinated. Everyone must wear a mask at all times during the entire vaccination process. Certified caregivers and healthcare providers should make arrangements to be vaccinated through point of distribution (POD) centers such as the one at Disneyland in Anaheim.

## **How can I stay updated on allotment availability and other details about being vaccinated through this project?**

Watch “This Day” on Channel 6, Monday through Saturday at 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. The show also is available on the Village YouTube channel. Also, check your email frequently. Updates will be sent to all residents who are subscribed to Village communications.

## **More FAQs, specific to the Village Vaccination Program clinics**

### **I received my first vaccine but did not get a vaccination card with a second-dose appointment. What do I do?**

Because you received your first vaccine through MemorialCare, you are in the system and will be notified of your second appointment either via email or by phone.

### **Can my caregiver be vaccinated?**

This program is approved for Village residents only. If your caregiver is a resident and 65+, he or she will be contacted through MemorialCare’s appointment notification system when they are randomly selected. If your caregiver is not a resident, he or she is welcome to schedule an appointment through the county’s program at Othena.com.

### **Can I give my appointment to someone else?**

This program is approved for Village residents only. Residents who wish to be vaccinated through the Village Vaccination Program will be accommodated. However, they will be contacted through MemorialCare’s appointment notification system.

### **I have been given my first dose elsewhere; can I get my second shot at the Village?**

No. You must return to the facility/organization where your first dose was administered.

### **Please remember...**

If you are randomly selected for an appointment, you will be contacted by MemorialCare by email or phone or by VMS’ CodeRED notification system.

MemorialCare will continue to vaccinate Village residents provided the County of Orange continues to allocate doses to the Village. MemorialCare is notified of dosage allotments for the Village Wednesday of each week. MemorialCare then schedules appointments randomly for residents, and notification is sent out to those residents on Thursday of each week. If you are not notified, you do not yet have an appointment.

To read frequently asked questions and learn important facts and updates about the program, visit News Home at [lagunawoodsvillage.com](http://lagunawoodsvillage.com) or visit [lagunawoodsvillagealerts.com](http://lagunawoodsvillagealerts.com). Click the link with the headline: “Update: COVID-19 Village Vaccination Program.”

VMS Resident Services cannot verify, schedule or notify residents of appointments.