

# COVID-19 UPDATE

January 12, 2021

Dear Employees of Mather Place,

## **IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT VACCINATION DATES FOR YOU BELOW.**

We received notice yesterday, January 11, 2021, that **an employee of Mather Place in Wilmette has a confirmed positive case of COVID-19**. This individual is taking guidance from their physician and we wish them a full recovery. Mather Place is interviewing this individual to determine if he/she was in close contact with residents and/or employees (meaning within 6 feet of anyone for more than 15 minutes). Individuals who have been in close contact will be notified.

### **VACCINE DATES FOR EMPLOYEES AND RESIDENTS:**

Great news! Mather Place has finalized clinic dates with Walgreens to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all residents, caregivers, and employees. Please read this information carefully as there are action items you need to take in order to secure your vaccination.

### **CLINIC DATES: YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH DATES**

Mather Place will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine, which is a two-step vaccination. **You must be available for BOTH Clinic 1 and 2 dates. Please plan accordingly.**

**Clinic 1: Monday, February 15, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**

**Clinic 2: Monday, March 8, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.**

### **HOW TO REGISTER: COMPLETE BY TUESDAY, JANUARY 19**

To be eligible for the vaccine, you MUST register by completing the Vaccine Administration Record (VAR). Starting Wednesday, January 13, you can obtain a VAR form from your supervisor. You must complete the form and return it to your Human Resources representative no later than Tuesday, January 19.

Once you have returned your VAR, you will be assigned a time for your vaccine. This assigned appointment time for your vaccine cannot be changed. Vaccine clinic dates and times are controlled by Walgreens. We thank you for your patience as we work to vaccinate hundreds of individuals. *Please note, we will keep your private information secure and it will be shared with only those that need to know.*

We'd like to address questions you may ask or comments you may have heard about the vaccine. **If you have questions about how the COVID-19 vaccine may affect you personally, please seek guidance from your health care provider. You may also reach out to your manager, Executive Director, or Human Resources representative for any general questions you may have about the Mather Place COVID-19 vaccination process.**

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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: If I get the vaccine, will I get COVID-19? Or, will I be contagious?**

A: The COVID-19 vaccine **cannot give you COVID-19, as there is no live or weakened virus in the vaccine at all.** You could still pass the virus on to others, which is why we will all still need to maintain social distancing, wear masks, and wash our hands regularly after vaccination. It will take some time to determine if the virus actually halts transmission or it just protects the person who received it.

**Q: What if I am unsure and want to wait? Can I get it whenever I decide?**

A: In order to be vaccinated through Mather, you must decide ahead of time and sign the consent form. **The pharmacy will only bring enough vaccines for the number of consent forms we have in hand.** You may have to seek vaccination from another source at a later date if you choose not to be vaccinated at this time.

**Q: Should I be vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?**

A: Yes, even if you were previously diagnosed with COVID-19, or have positive antibodies, it is important to get vaccinated. It could give you longer or better protection against the disease. **The exception per the CDC is to not get vaccinated during your 10-day isolation period if you tested positive for COVID-19.**

**Q: What are the side effects?**

A: Some participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated, with more pronounced discomfort after the second dose. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever, and pain at the injection site. Based on the data to date, per the CDC, there are minor side effects in the majority of those that receive the vaccine. Only 4 to 16% of those vaccinated in the vaccines' clinical trials experienced fever as a side effect. If you have concerns about the possible side effects or how they impact you, please speak with your primary care provider.

Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies. Experts from the CDC also believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19 after being vaccinated.

Note that if you have concerns about having an allergic reaction to a vaccine, you should consult with your health care provider.

**Q: If one of the symptoms is a fever after being vaccinated, if we run a fever from it, should we stay home, or will we be sent home from work?**

A: Staff who develop only symptoms that may be vaccine-related (fever, chills, fatigue, etc.) within three days of vaccination and have not had unprotected exposure in the past 14 days to someone who was COVID-positive may continue to work, provided they are not showing any symptoms that are not likely to be vaccine-related (cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, etc.).

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If symptoms do not improve or fever does not resolve within two days, we will ask you to stay home from work and get a COVID-19 test.

Staff or residents who show any symptoms that are not likely to be vaccine-related, regardless of whether this is accompanied by symptoms that may be vaccine-related, should be managed like staff and residents showing COVID symptoms.

Mather's emergency pay program will remain in effect through February and may support employees who may experience COVID-19 symptoms.

**Q: If I have a reaction that necessitates time at home, is that accounted for?**

A: You may use Paid Time Off Sick (PTOS) if you need time away due to side effects of the vaccine.

**Q: Do I really need to get both doses?**

A: Yes. Those who are vaccinated will need to get a second dose three or four weeks after the first one. The vaccine will not protect you without the second dose.

**Q: How long is the vaccine effective?**

A: It is not yet known how long the vaccine will be effective against COVID-19. We will learn more as research continues.

**Q: What if I am 17 years of age or younger? Can I still be vaccinated?**

A: Employees under the age of 18 will need to get consent from a parent.

**Q: What if I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant?**

A: Mather strongly recommends you talk to your health care provider as soon as possible to get advice on whether to receive the vaccine.

**There is no cost for the vaccine.** A copy of your insurance card will be requested to cover administration fees, but you will not be required to pay a co-pay. If you don't have insurance, you will still receive the vaccine at no cost to you.

**Join me and your teammates and sign up to be vaccinated. You must register no later than Tuesday, January 19. Sign-up forms are available from your supervisor.**

Sincerely,

Katrina O'Neill  
Executive Director