



Dear ComServ Residents/Participants, Family/Guardians and Our Hero Staff Members,

We are very grateful to be able to partner with CVS and NCDHHS in order to offer the vaccine designed to prevent Covid-19. To whom the vaccine is offered and when is based on guidelines provided by the Federal Government. The vaccine will be offered to our direct support/contact staff and residents along with other individuals who are receiving home and community based services and the staff directly providing those services. The vaccine will be **provided free** of charge to ComServ, Inc. employees and individuals residing in group homes or receiving community based services regardless of whether you have insurance coverage.

We want to share some important and factual information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about the vaccine:

- The shots that will be made available are the **Moderna Covid-19 vaccine**
- Thirty Thousand (30,000) people participated in the trials for the vaccine
- This vaccine is approved for use in **persons eighteen years of age and older**
- People who are immunocompromised or have a health condition should consult a physician prior to receiving the vaccine.
- **Two shots spaced four weeks apart** are required for maximum protection
- The vaccine, when administered in a **two shot series, was found to be 94.1 effective** in preventing Covid-19 and reduced the severity of the illness in the small percentage of people who contracted the virus
- The CDC has made **health care workers and persons residing in long term care and group homes** first priority for receiving the vaccination
- **Common side effects were noted 24-48 hours after vaccination and longer after the 2nd dose.**
These side effects are an indication that your body is working to build an immune response:
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Local injection site soreness
 - There were NO reports of serious illness.
 - Severe side effects were rare and mostly occurred in people with severe allergic responses to previous vaccines. We recommend consulting with a physician for guidance for people who have a history of this type of response to vaccines.
- The **vaccine is available for people who have previously had Covid-19** because maintenance of natural immune response is uncertain at this time
- This vaccine has **not been tested in pregnant women** but is safe for women who are breast feeding
- The CDC is recommending **mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing to continue** following vaccination. These preventative measures may be able to be decrease future viral spread in our communities significantly

- Further study is required to determine how long persons who are vaccinated will **maintain an immune response** to Covid-19
- It is not possible to contract the virus from the vaccine and the vaccine cannot alter your DNA. There is no live virus in the vaccine.

We sincerely hope you (staff) will be willing to receive or guardians will allow your family member or ward to receive this vaccine. It is an established fact that people with developmental disabilities are at much greater risk to have severe reactions and/or die as a result of COVID-19. As the Center for Disease Control has indicated, this vaccine is an important tool in our war against this awful pandemic!

Sincerely,

Dawn Kelley, MSW
CEO

Official Sources of information

<https://www.cdc.gov> (Benefits of Covid-19 vaccines)

<https://cvdvaccine.com>

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>