



## COVID-19 VACCINE POLICIES

We strongly believe that vaccination is the most effective tool for preventing the spread of the virus, within our Prestige centers and communities and beyond. Encouraging and requiring vaccination among patients, residents and staff ensures that we will continue to protect each other with a safe and proven defense against the virus – the vaccine.

We support all state and federal mandates requiring COVID-19 vaccination for our team members. As federal and state vaccination guidelines evolve, we are implementing continual updates to our vaccination policies to reflect the latest requirements, which vary by state and location.

Along with our strict infection-control practices, vaccination is our best defense against transmission of the virus and will help improve health and safety for everyone, especially more vulnerable people in our care.

For the latest vaccine news and information, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 vaccine hub.

## Requirements

### **1. Are Prestige staff, patients and residents required to be vaccinated for COVID-19?**

We encourage all patients, residents and staff members in our Prestige family to choose to be vaccinated. Where there are federal and state-level requirements in place for vaccination for our staff members, we require those employees to show proof of full vaccination as a condition of employment. In all of our locations, we also provide no-cost access for staff, patients, residents and their family members to receive the vaccine if they are not already vaccinated.

### **2. What requirements are in place for unvaccinated employees?**

We are deeply committed to working with every individual to listen to their concerns and to provide education and information that will help them understand the benefits of vaccination. We are encouraged by a continued increase in vaccine acceptance rates among our team members and all those we serve. For those who are exempt from vaccination or who have not yet chosen to be vaccinated, we require increased regular testing and the continued use of PPE and social distancing regardless of vaccination status.

### **3. What exemptions are in place for those who qualify?**

In some areas, vaccine requirement includes well-defined exemptions for those with legitimate medical reasons or sincerely held religious reasons. Those who can demonstrate that they are exempt are required to undergo COVID-19 testing, the rate of testing varies by each state.

### **4. Does Prestige admit new patients and welcome new residents who have not been vaccinated?**

Admissions are currently open to everyone regardless of vaccination status. However, for those who have not yet chosen to be vaccinated, we provide personalized education and resources to emphasize the benefits of vaccination. Individuals who are not “up to date” with their vaccinations quarantine for 10 days but may come out of quarantine with a negative COVID-19 test on Day 7. Up to Date means that the person has had their primary vaccine series and a booster dose.

## **Safety and Effectiveness**

For the most up to date information, we encourage you to visit the CDC’s vaccine information resources online.

### **1. How do I know that the vaccines are safe?**

Each of the COVID-19 vaccines administered in the United States are safe and effective. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), these vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

To learn more about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html).

### **2. Are there reactions associated with receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?**

As with many vaccines, some people experience short-term discomfort after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. If you experience some of the common reactions, they are normal, and typically subside after a few days. According to the CDC, side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection.

Learn more about possible side effects and ways to relieve them at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html).

### **3. How do the vaccines protect against COVID-19?**

COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/how-they-work.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/how-they-work.html).

# Prestige Care Best Practices

## **1. When staff, residents and patients throughout Prestige Care are vaccinated, do you still take precautions to limit the spread of the virus?**

Yes. Throughout all Prestige locations our strict transmission-based precautions, including universal masking, wearing appropriate PPE, and practicing frequent hand-hygiene and social distancing, have not changed in light of vaccination among our staff, patients and residents.

When new cases arise, including breakthrough cases among vaccinated individuals, we follow all prescribed guidelines from local and federal health officials to prevent further transmission with our systematic approach to containment.

## **2. If my loved one is vaccinated, does this mean we can visit more freely?**

We continue to follow the guidance from state health officials that currently guide visitation policies, which take into account many variables outside of our buildings. Visitation guidelines vary between states, if you would like to know more about visitation, please contact your loved one's center or community for details.



Prestige Care, Inc.  
Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.

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