



**Parker Jewish Institute**  
HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

**Thursday, December 17, 2020**

Dear Parker Family Members and Friends,

We hope that this note finds you and your family safe. We are writing to let you know that we are in the process of hopefully receiving Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine.

In New York, the Parker Jewish Institute should be receiving the vaccine on or around Monday, December 21, 2020, for patients, residents and staff. Parker is partnering with Walgreens, one of the approved pharmacies to administer the vaccine. This process requires two doses be administered. Please refer to the general information section below for further information.

While we are still receiving logistical information we are extremely optimistic about the vaccine. We are confident that the vaccine, with its efficacy rate of 95 percent, will mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable population. The COVID-19 vaccine offers a ray of hope in that it may enable families to finally reunite in-person.

A member of the Parker team will contact you regarding your loved one, as it relates to a candidate for receiving the vaccine, and if you are listed as the legal representative.

As always, our clinical team is available to answer any questions that you may have regarding the vaccine and about your loved one. We will continue to provide updates as we learn more about the vaccine. For more information, please call the Family Call Center at 718-289-2888.

### **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine General Information:**

#### **General Information**

- Parker residents are being offered the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help create an immune response in the body against the virus and may help keep a person from getting severely ill, even if he or she does get COVID-19.
- The Food and Drug Administration has authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older under an Emergency Use Authorization, which is a process that helps facilitate the availability and use of medicines and vaccines during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- The vaccine was tested in tens of thousands of adults from diverse backgrounds, including older adults and communities of color.
- Residents are not required to take the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
- The vaccine is administered as a 2-dose series, 3 weeks apart, into the muscle.
- The 1st dose will be administered on-site, at Parker Jewish Institute, on **Monday 12/21/2020 to Wednesday 12/23/2020.**

- The 2nd dose will be administered on-site, at Parker Jewish Institute, on **Monday 01/11/2021 to Wednesday 01/13/2021.**

### **About mRNA Vaccines**

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is an **mRNA vaccine**, which teaches our cells how to make a harmless piece of the “spike protein” for SARS-CoV-2.
- **COVID-19 mRNA vaccines will not give a person COVID-19.**
- None of the COVID-19 vaccines in use or under development use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- People can experience normal side effects, such as fever, after vaccination. These side effects are signs that the body is building immunity.
- It takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. A person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.
- **COVID-19 mRNA vaccines will not cause a person to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests.**
- Vaccines currently authorized for use or in development won’t cause a person to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if a person has a current infection.
- There is a possibility a person may test positive on some antibody tests, which show previous infection. This would indicate that the vaccine likely triggered an immune response in one’s body and that he or she may have some level of protection against the virus.
- **People who have gotten sick with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, may still benefit from vaccination.**
- People may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have already had the virus. This is because a person can become infected with the virus more than once.
- At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering.

### **Side Effects**

- People can experience normal side effects, such as fever, after vaccination. These side effects are signs that the body is building immunity.
- Side effects that have been reported with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine include injection site pain, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, injection site swelling, injection site redness, nausea, feeling unwell, and swollen lymph nodes.
- **There is a remote chance that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction.** A severe allergic reaction would usually occur within a few minutes to one hour. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face and throat, a fast heartbeat, and a bad rash all over your body. For this reason, all residents who receive the vaccine will be observed for 30 minutes, and longer as needed. Additionally, Parker’s Medical Emergency Response Team will be available in case anyone has a reaction to the vaccine.
- **A person should not get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine if he or she:**
  - **Had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine.**
  - **Had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine.**

- **Is moderately to severely ill with an acute illness until they have recovered.**
- **Is at least 90 days after receipt of antibody therapy for COVID-19 infection in order to avoid interference with antibody therapy with vaccine induced immune responses.**
- **Received a different vaccine in the last 14 days.**

### **Getting the Vaccine**

- **Residents are not required to take the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.** This decision should be made in consultation with one's personal physician.
- Tell the vaccination provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:
  - Have any allergies;
  - Have a fever;
  - Have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner;
  - Are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system;
  - Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant;
  - Are breastfeeding; and,
  - Have received another COVID-19 vaccine.

Respectfully,

**Michael N. Rosenblut**  
President and CEO

**Dr. Igor Israel**  
Chief Medical Officer