

VACCINATION IMPACTS VACCINATION READY

Understanding Common Symptoms

Common symptoms that can occur following the COVID-19 vaccination:

- Fever, fatigue, headache, chills, myalgia (muscle pain), and arthralgia (joint pain) are the most commonly reported symptoms
- They tend to be rated mild to moderate in severity
- The symptoms occur within the first three days of vaccination (the day of vaccination and following two days, with most occurring the day after vaccination)
- They generally resolve within 1-2 days of onset
- Symptoms occur more frequently and severely following the second dose
- Symptoms were noted more frequently among younger persons compared to those who are older (>55 years)

Symptoms NOT consistent with post COVID-19 vaccination:

- Cough, shortness of breath, rhinorrhea (runny nose), sore throat, or loss of taste or smell (may be symptoms of COVID-19 or another infection)

Signs and symptoms, alone, not consistent with the COVID-19 infection:

- Immediate hypersensitivity reactions (e.g., urticaria, anaphylaxis)
- Local symptoms (e.g., pain, swelling, or redness at injection site)

NOTE: These should be managed per usual protocols for vaccine-related side effects

Continued Infection Prevention and Control Practices

Healthcare personnel at LTCs should follow recommended infection prevention and control practices such as:

- Close monitoring of residents for symptoms of COVID-19
- Universal source control
- Physical distancing (when possible)
- Hand hygiene
- Optimizing engineering controls
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - Facemask and eye protection

Because information is quickly changing on vaccine effectiveness; the reduction in disease, severity, or transmission; the duration of protection, residents and healthcare personnel should continue to follow all current infection prevention and control recommendations to protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 infection, regardless of their vaccination status.

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Proposed tactics to evaluating and managing new onset post-vaccination symptoms

Symptoms	Proposed Tactic
Symptoms NOT consistent with post COVID-19 vaccination but symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or another Infection	Evaluate for possible infections, including testing for COVID-19 or other pathogens Pending evaluation, these residents should be quarantined to a single room and cared for by healthcare personnel following PPE guidelines. If results are negative, resident may return to normal activity
Symptoms THAT ARE consistent with post-COVID-19 vaccination Fever defined in LTC: single measured temperature of 100.0°F (37.8°C) or higher or repeated temperatures of 99.0°F (37.2°C)	Evaluate the resident. Resident should be restricted to current room and closely monitored (unless medical attention is necessary) until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever resolves and • Symptoms improve Healthcare personnel should wear PPE If residents symptoms resolve within 2 days, precautions can be discontinued. Fever should be resolved for at least 24 hours before discontinuing precautions COVID-19 testing should be considered if symptoms do not begin to improve in 2 days Residents that are COVID-19 positive or who have been in prolonged close contact with a COVID-19 positive person with the previous 14 days should be tested for COVID-19

The tactics outlined in the Table above apply to residents who have received the COVID-19 vaccination in the prior 3 days (including day of vaccination, which is considered day 1).

NOTE: Facilities that are conducting outbreak testing for COVID-19 transmission, or evaluating residents who have had prolonged close contact someone with the COVID-19 infection in the previous 14 days, should care for residents following all recommended infection control practices including placement in Transmission-Based Precautions with use of all recommended personal protective equipment, and performing appropriate testing.

All symptomatic residents should be assessed; the tactics suggested in the table above should be tailored to fit the clinical and epidemiologic characteristics of the specific case.

In any situation, positive tests for COVID-19, if performed, should not be attributed to the COVID-19 vaccine, as vaccination does not influence the results of these tests.

These factors are based on the current understanding of symptoms following COVID-19 vaccination, including timing and duration, and might change as experience with the vaccine unfolds.

Stay up to date by visiting the PharMerica COVID-19 webpage: pharmerica.com/covid19