

## THE TRUSTEE

November 2021

**A**t this time last year, we were adhering to CDC guidelines of social distancing, masking up, and washing our hands to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This year, we are erring on the side of caution and being cognizant of the same precautions. As the colder weather enters and people adjust to working indoors, there has been a rise (10% nationally) in COVID cases nationally. The better news is that there are fewer, still 1,000 daily nationally, deaths due to more people being vaccinated. The negative news is that the virus continues to proliferate among the unvaccinated. In the Trust health plan, we have had a half dozen long term ventilator cases and one death. Now, with vaccinations open to 5-16 year olds and booster shots for seniors 65 years and older and those with compromised immunities, the number of vaccinations has increased dramatically. Here is the information from the Ulster County Health Department.

Ulster County Department of Health has reactivated its COVID-19 vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) at the former Best Buy in the Hudson Valley Mall, and is offering vaccinations at other locations around the County, in pop-up PODs, and at Highland and Onteora High Schools, Walk-ins are available but can't be guaranteed. Due to high demand for the Moderna booster, appointments are strongly recommended. Additional appointments for Moderna boosters will become available throughout the fall. Vaccinations are also available at most pharmacies in the area. Whereas the county sites are totally free, pharmacies charge our plan a \$40 dispensing fee.

### **Things to Know Before You Go:**

- Bring your CDC vaccine card to your second, additional, or booster dose appointment. If you've misplaced your card, call the Ulster County Recovery Service Center (RSC) at (845) 443-8888 to request your NYSIIS report.
- Fill out the State's attestation form. You can either do this prior to your appointment and bring it with you, or be prepared to fill it out on-site.
- Anyone between the ages of 12-17 who receives their first dose at one of our high school PODs will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of two 2-year scholarships provided by the SUNY Ulster Foundation.

- Anyone between the ages of 12-17 who is getting their 1st or 2nd dose will be eligible to receive a gift card provided by New York State Department of Health, while supplies last.
- Due to high demand for the Moderna booster, appointments are strongly recommended. Walk-ins are available but not guaranteed.
- Pediatric PODs are by appointment only. Patients must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- All people **over the age of 5** are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Pfizer is approved for ages 5+ (see CDC guidance for Children and Teens) Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are approved for ages 18+
- **Boosters** are approved for people 18+ who are at least 6 months past their second dose of Pfizer and Moderna and meet **specific criteria set by the NYS Department of Health**. It is recommended that people who received a Pfizer or Moderna series receive a booster of the same vaccine.
- **Boosters** of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) are recommended for anyone 18+ who is at least two months from having received the vaccine.
- **Mix-and-match boosters:** Some research indicates that an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine booster may benefit those who received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Any FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine can be used for the booster dose. Consult your doctor to determine what's the best option for you.
- **Additional doses** are approved for people who are at least 28 days past their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna and are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised (see specific criteria set by the CDC and approved by the NYS Department of Health). Currently, the recommendation is to receive an additional dose of the same vaccine as the one previously received.

### **NOCC: The Notice of Creditable Coverage**

The NOCC, stating that your Medicare prescription coverage is equal to or better than Medicare's Part D is available on the Trust web site @[www.ktftrustfund.com](http://www.ktftrustfund.com)

**IN MEMORIAM:** Joanne Coutant | James Van Benschoten