



December 14, 2020

Dear Employees, Residents & Family Members,

By now you have probably learned that COVID-19 vaccines will soon be ready for administration to the healthcare workers and residents in long term care. We have long awaited this exciting news. As it should be, residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities are first in line to receive this life saving measure. We are thrilled with this development and are making every effort to vaccinate as many individuals as rapidly as possible.

If you have questions about the safety of this vaccine, as they have been developed and tested far more quickly than those in the past, we want to assure you that the speed with which these vaccines were developed is not due to skipping important safety steps. It is instead the result of focused, collaborative work performed by experts across the globe. Vaccines approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have undergone the same level of rigorous testing for safety and efficacy as other vaccines, and have been tested in tens of thousands of people, including older adults. Two independent advisory committees of experts from academic institutions also monitor vaccines to ensure their safety.

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines require two separate doses given about three or four weeks apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. Sometimes there is misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions. Simply put, the COVID-19 vaccine does not give you a COVID-19 infection. The vaccine works by helping the body create antibodies to fight off the virus. Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.

We are engaged with appointed pharmacies and are proud to partner on this federal program to help us most efficiently distribute these vaccines to our residents and employees free of charge.

We encourage you to reach out to a member of our team if you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, its possible side effects, and the timeline of vaccine availability at our centers. As we have been saying over the course of this difficult year, we are all in this together. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of our staff and residents have been and remain our top priority. We look forward to doing our part by supporting the COVID-19 vaccine, and hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Brian McClain, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Deanna Hatfield, MSN, RN
Chief Nursing Officer