



12/10/20

Dear Residents and Families,

As we near the end of 2020, we reflect on the challenges we faced this year. It has not been easy to mitigate a world-wide pandemic that threatened our industry at exponential rates. We are proud and celebrate the successes we have had along the way, while recognizing we are not out of the woods. The rate of community spread of COVID-19 has significantly impacted our facility. We have consistently been in outbreak testing since mid-November, and we have had consistent positive results with every subsequent test. Thankfully, most of our COVID-19 positives are asymptomatic, or mild to moderately symptomatic. Unfortunately, in early December, we had our first two positive resident cases. As devastated as we are, this is not a failure. Our team has done a Yeomans job protecting the residents and managing their personal lives during this pandemic.

We will not dwell on the struggles, especially as the promise of the vaccine is becoming a reality. Our team has begun internal preparations and partnered with Walgreen Pharmacies to provide our staff and residents with a vaccination clinic. Although we have not been given our clinic date, we want to be as prepared as possible. This will include residents and/or their responsible parties authorizing consent for inoculation. We understand that many of you may have questions or concerns regarding a new vaccination. We understand that, and we will do our best to help provide you with resources and tools to make your decision. What we can tell you, is that the vaccination is the only tool we have to get us to the other side of this pandemic. The vaccination is our HOPE for a future with hugs, family visits, group activities and parties. This two-part vaccine will be administered by Walgreens Pharmacists at least 21-28 days apart. Attached you will find some preliminary education regarding the vaccine from our trade association, The Ohio Health Care Association. On page 2 of the COVID-19 Vaccination Fact Sheet you will find a list of helpful links. I would like to highlight a few of these. The American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) provided some helpful questions and answers about the vaccine. There are also two informative YouTube video links featuring Dr. Hanrahan who is an Infection Disease Specialist Physician from the Toledo regarding the vaccination. Attached is also a copy of the vaccine administration record which requires your consent for your loved one to receive the vaccine. Please return the attached Vaccine Administration Record as soon as possible. If you do not have access to a printer, let us know and we will mail you a copy of the form. We will be reaching out often with more information and resources as they become available. We are available to discuss the vaccine and our vaccination clinic process at any time. These resources will also be made available on our website, www.welcomenursinghome.com, along with the most up to date COVID-19 numbers.

Thank you for your continued support and trust during these difficult times.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L

Director of Quality Assurance