



December 21, 2020

Good news is on the horizon! We finally received our vaccination clinic dates from Walgreens Pharmacy! Our first clinic date is **December 29**, with follow up clinics on **January 19** and **February 9th**. I have received many of your signed consents, but we received notice from the pharmacy that in light of the pandemic they will also be allowing us to receive verbal consent via telephone. If you do not have access to printing the form and returning, you can reach out to our social services department to give verbal authorization for the vaccine.

For residents who are currently infected with COVID-19, they will receive the vaccination at the second and third clinic dates. They cannot receive the vaccine until 14 days after contracting the virus. If they have already recovered from the virus, they will qualify for vaccination at during the first clinic visit. The pharmacists will be administering the vaccination and monitoring residents for fifteen minutes post vaccination for any side effects. The pharmacist will be located in a central area, likely the Atrium, and administering vaccinations from there. For residents who cannot easily access the atrium the pharmacist may go to the resident's room for inoculation. Our nursing team will be reporting any follow up side effects through a portal established by the National Health Safety Network. This is the location where all side effects are reported and tracked.

After months of being a COVID-free facility, our team has experienced first hand the chaos and devastation this virus has on our dear residents. Our halls are no longer full of friendly chatter and BINGO calls. The halls instead have closed doors and Personal Protective Equipment bins lining the walls. Our atrium is no longer the meeting place for friends to share dinner, instead, it has become a PPE and equipment holding zone. Our conference room is no longer our plan of care meeting area where we get to touch base with residents and families. Instead, it is the incident command center, where leaders hash through the most recent guidance and regulations, develop new policies and disseminate updates. And through all of this, our team has been amazing. In spite of it all, we realize this is not the facility we know and love. This is not how we want it to be. We long for the days when residents visit one another in their rooms watching movies together. We miss our Singing Seniors and volunteers who come to bring cheer to our residents. This vaccination is bringing us one step closer to returning to some semblance of normalcy. Our halls will never be the same until they are filled with hugs from family members stopping by to visit. This is our hope, this is our goal. Please, if you have questions or concerns, reach out to get them answered.

We appreciate all of your support and understanding during this difficult year. Here is to the HOPE that 2021 has to offer in the form of a vaccination.

Stay Well,

Heidi J. W. Freas MS OTR/L

Director of Quality Assurance