

December 15, 2020

Dear Resident or Family Member,

This has been a very difficult year with the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are pleased to share some good news. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found a COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective, and our facility will be able to give the vaccine to residents. This is very encouraging news.

A COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available to all residents through an on-site clinic facilitated by Walgreens. We are moving forward with our plans and will provide additional details on dates soon. In the meantime, we need two signed consent forms for the pharmacy to administer the vaccine to you/your loved one. You can either sign the forms and submit a scanned copy, or send an email saying you consent to receive the vaccine. Please send to [coronavirusquestions@geercares.org](mailto:coronavirusquestions@geercares.org). You can then mail the forms back to Geer in the enclosed envelope. There will be no costs to get the vaccine.

We encourage as many residents as possible to get this vaccine. The elderly are at a much higher risk for getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19. The vaccine has been shown to provide a great deal of protection against serious illness due to COVID-19. **The more residents that get vaccinated, the better we can protect our community against potential outbreaks and save lives.**

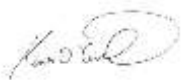
**This vaccine has gone through testing and clinical trials to ensure it meets the highest safety standards.** It also is safe to get if you've already had the virus. The health and safety of our residents is always our top priority, and we are confident this vaccine is a much better option than the risk of getting this virus.

**Please read the attached Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) fact sheet and contact Melissa Foley at [coronavirusquestions@geercares.org](mailto:coronavirusquestions@geercares.org) with any questions.** Potential side effects are listed on the fact sheet. You will find that these side effects are similar to the potential side effects of the flu shot, but they occur more frequently. The vaccine requires two doses. Residents will need to get both doses to ensure the best results. The second dose will be given approximately 21 to 28 days after the first dose.

We will continue to take all necessary precautions after the vaccine is administered, including wearing personal protective equipment and conducting regular testing, to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. We will also work with public health officials to determine how and when to adjust our policies for visitations and social activities and keep you updated.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are hopeful that the vaccine will be a lifesaving turning point in the fight against COVID-19. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. You may also visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines) to learn more about the vaccine.

Best,



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