



**August 27, 2021**

**Dear friends and families,**

As always, we appreciate that you entrust us with the care of your loved ones. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with our recent implementation of masking and social distancing protocols for our facility.

In the past couple of weeks, there has been a lot of activity on the vaccine front. We are anticipating regulatory and guidance changes in the coming days in response to several vaccine initiatives:

- On Aug. 23, the Pfizer vaccine became the first in the U.S. to receive full approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and will now be marketed as “Comirnaty” as its new brand name. The approval means that this vaccine meets the highest safety and efficacy standards and is a big step in the fight against COVID-19. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>
- The CDC and FDA made recommendations for administration of a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations for immunocompromised individuals. As a result, we are evaluating all of our current residents against the criteria and will be contacting you and physicians if your loved one meets the criteria for a third dose. Data has indicated that individuals with moderate to severe immunosuppression do not create an adequate immune response after the initial two dose series of the Pfizer and Moderna and is recommending a third dose **as part of the primary series** at least 28 days after completion of the first two doses. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine does not currently carry this recommendation. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-additional-vaccine-dose-certain-immunocompromised>
- In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a plan to deliver booster shots for individuals who have been vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. Under this plan, a booster would be administered, eight months after an individual’s second dose, beginning the week of September 20—at which point those individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout will be eligible, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors. We are awaiting final guidance as to when the booster shots will be available for our residents and staff who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/joint-statement-hhs-public-health-and-medical-experts-covid-19-booster-shots>
- President Biden also announced new regulations requiring nursing homes to require that all of their workers be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The new regulations have not yet been released, however, we have begun taking the necessary steps to achieve full compliance with regulatory changes. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/08/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-announce-new-actions-to-protect-americans-from-covid-19-and-help-state-and-local-leaders-fight-the-virus/>

Full vaccinations are at the forefront of safety for staff and residents. We encourage all, including family members and volunteers, to become vaccinated. Find vaccines near you: <https://www.vaccines.gov/search>. For information about vaccinations, please check the [CDC's fact sheet](#).

Our vaccination rate for residents as of August 26, 2021 is 99%; staff is 83% vaccinated.

Our heightened concerns have been enacted due to concerns about the Delta variant of COVID-19. We will continue to monitor the variant and update our practices accordingly.

There are currently no changes in our visitation protocols at this time. We simply request that masking and physical distancing protocols be followed, even if you and your loved one are vaccinated. We ask that you do not visit in the resident room if they have a roommate. Please call ahead if possible so we may have your loved one ready for you.

We will continue to follow guidance from [\(CDC\)](#), [Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) and [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) and will monitor and follow the latest [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) COVID-19 infection control guidance with relation to its impact on our residents and visitors.

The CDC updated its guidance on how to protect yourself and others who are fully vaccinated. [Read the CDC recommendations](#).

Our Facility's Resident Impact (May 15, 2020, through Aug. 26, 2021):

Number of cases	
18	ADMISSIONS: Residents admitted or readmitted who were previously hospitalized and treated for COVID-19
0	CONFIRMED: Residents with new laboratory positive COVID-19
0	SUSPECTED: Residents with new suspected COVID-19
68	TOTAL DEATHS: Residents who died in the facility or another location
27	COVID-19 DEATHS: Residents with suspected or laboratory positive COVID-19 who died in the facility or another location.

We take very seriously our responsibility for your loved one's safety and well-being. If you have any questions, we are always available for you. Thank you again.

**Sincerely,**

**Kimberly Chi RN, NHA**