



December 14, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members,

By now, you have probably learned that COVID-19 vaccines will soon be approved and ready for distribution to senior healthcare workers and Residents in their care. We have long awaited this exciting news.

The Pettee House, along with thousands of other senior care providers, are participating in a program with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help us most efficiently distribute these vaccines to our Residents free of charge once they are available. We will be partnering with CVS Health to facilitate this process and will keep you informed as we move forward. Our Staff will also have the opportunity to be vaccinated through this program, if they have not been vaccinated previously.

We understand that some of you may be concerned about the safety of these new vaccines, 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, but rather 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 rigorous testing for safety and efficiency 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.

We have no choice of which vaccine we receive. Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have over 90% effectiveness. Most of the COVID-19 vaccines require two separate doses given about three to four weeks apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated, with more pronounced discomfort after the second dose. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pain, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. Sometimes there is a misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions, as you may have heard someone say a vaccine has "made them sick" or given them the disease that the vaccine was intended to prevent. We want to be clear that this is not the case. The COVID-19 vaccine cannot 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.

The CDC has made no provision to vaccinate Residents' family members or other outside healthcare workers at the same time Residents and Staff are vaccinated.

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I encourage you to visit this link including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): <https://www.omnicare.com/covid-19-vaccine-resource>. If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, its possible side effects and what to expect after you or your loved one receives it, please reach out to us.

We will share more details as they become available. As we have been saying over the course of this difficult year, we are all in this together. Please know that the safety and well-being of our Residents and Staff have been and remain our top priority. We are confident that the worldwide, unprecedented scientific achievement of these COVID-19 vaccines will eventually enable us to enjoy life with our loved ones again. We look forward to providing the COVID-19 vaccine to Residents and Staff as soon as it is available and hope you will get the vaccine when it becomes available to you.

Sincerely,

Nick Baker
Executive Director