



## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

***For Residents, Family Members, and Staff***  
**Wednesday, January 27, 2021**

### **Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (1/27/2021) \***

Health Center Residents: 8 Cases

Health Center Staff: 10 Cases

Independent Living Resident: 1 Case

*\* Numbers may change from those listed in a previous Update for reasons that include: the result of an individual's second test was 'non-detect' or the individual has recovered and met return-to-work requirements. The Pines is following CDC guidelines as to what represents an active COVID-19 case.*

Due to the recent resident and staff cases of COVID-19 in our Health Center, The Pines is listed, along with nearly 30 other CCRCs, in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) COVID-19 Outbreak in Congregate Living Settings Report. This report, which is on The Pines' website, can be read by clicking here: [DHHS Outbreak Report](#)

### ***A Note from Heather McKee, Interim President/CEO and Executive Director***

Following the success of last week's COVID-19 vaccinations at The Pines (a total of 360!), we know residents and staff are looking forward to receiving the second dose of Moderna vaccine. The second Omnicare/CVS vaccine clinic on our campus is tentatively scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> - please pencil in this date on your calendars. The following is some additional important information related to this upcoming clinic:

- Our CVS clinic coordinator shared with us this week that they will confirm the exact date of the second clinic 72 hours before the clinic will occur. At that time, we will learn how many pharmacists will arrive, which will determine our schedule of appointments for that day.
- Also, the exact date of the Clinic may occur up to 4 days before or 4 days after February 17<sup>th</sup>. This means that the clinic could occur any day between Sunday the 14th

and Saturday the 20th. We ask that you plan to be on campus during the 4 days surrounding 2/17 until the exact date is confirmed. Thank you for your patience as we navigate the last-minute nature of this clinic.

- We also need for all residents who are scheduled to participate in the second clinic to provide us with new copies of their medical insurance and prescription drug cards. Please give these to Rebecca at our front desk. Due to the hurried nature of the last clinic, we were unable to make copies of all the documents we had gathered at that time – thank you, again, for your help with this process.
- Omnicare/CVS will require new consent forms to be completed by participating residents in order to administer the second dose of the vaccine. We will share these with you when we receive them.

While we are comforted that so many members of our community have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, we need to convey some cautionary words regarding the limited effectiveness of one dose.

- While some studies suggest one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine can provide 30%-50% protection, this is not certain. Individuals have been infected by COVID-19 even after receiving the first dose of this vaccine.

Please also remember that it takes about two weeks following the second shot for the vaccine to build up to full protection, and during these two weeks the effectiveness has not reached its peak. Therefore, please stay especially vigilant during the two-week period following your second vaccine dose.

- Even after one receives a second dose, the vaccines are not 100% effective. There is still a risk that those vaccinated could be infected with COVID-19. And, though symptoms may be less severe, according to public health experts, the risk is still present.
- The other unknown factors are whether those vaccinated can be carriers of the virus and spread it unknowingly to others, and how long immunity will last once an individual receives the vaccine.
- And as you may have read, emerging COVID-19 variants, appearing sooner than scientists had expected, may weaken the effectiveness of vaccines. Moderna is planning to develop a booster shot, in order to be more effective against emerging strains of the coronavirus.

Residents have been eagerly asking when will “life return to normal” at The Pines, with waited service dining and larger group activities. The answer will be dependent on several factors that would help assure that the return of such activities would be safe for our community. They would include but are not limited to:

- A high percentage of residents who have been vaccinated with two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Few or no COVID-19 cases on campus.
- A significant and sustained decrease in COVID-19 positivity rates in Mecklenburg County.
- Guidelines and directives from Federal, State, and County governing, administrative, and regulatory bodies.

Please note the Mecklenburg County Health Department COVID-19 current directive, effective through February 2, strongly discourages leaving home for anything other than essential activities. In addition, State Executive Order 188 limiting travel outside the home to between 5AM and 10PM remains in effective until January 29<sup>th</sup>.

While we are all eager to return to life as it was before COVID-19, we will still need to be patient and careful in the months ahead. Our access to the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine makes our days so much brighter – it is a wonderful development and a marvel of science. But we must remain careful for a while longer, especially as an expression of our caring commitment to each other’s safety and wellbeing. Our vigilance now can bring about a future with fewer restrictions on our ability to enjoy all The Pines has to offer.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Construction Corner**

The construction of the new Jetton Community Center spaces is progressing well. Please enjoy the following recent photos from Rodgers Builders, which give us a peek of what’s to come (clockwise from top left): new Davidson Room, Marketplace Dining, Martin Fitness Room and first floor Multipurpose Room.



## Closing Image

Below is a delightful image of Copenhagen painted by resident Adrienne Pedersen. She writes, *“It was one of Ken’s favorite places. A bright painting at a dark time of year seemed to fit the bill.”* Thank you, Adrienne!

