



## COVID-19 UPDATE

### AND OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

*For Residents, Family Members, and Staff*

**Thursday, November 19, 2020**

#### **Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (11/19/2020)**

Health Center Staff (Nursing): 1 Case

**Good news!** Excitement continued this week over COVID-19 vaccine development, as we can now anticipate the availability of a second, highly effective vaccine. We will add information today to the positive news of the Pfizer vaccine shared in last Thursday's UPDATE, and will also share insights regarding Moderna's vaccine milestone.

Many of you have questions related to the rollout of these vaccines and how The Pines will participate. Few details are known at this point, but we will share what we do know.

First, pharmaceutical company Moderna announced last Monday that its COVID-19 vaccine Phase 3 clinical trials demonstrate that the vaccine is greater than 94% effective, including for older adults.

Additionally, Pfizer updated last week's announcement, now saying its vaccine is greater than 95% effective, up from greater than 90% as initially reported. Both companies will seek Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and expect to have vaccine doses available for high priority groups before the end of this year.

This morning, pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and its partner, the University of Oxford, announced positive results from its COVID-19 vaccine Phase 2 trials that were particularly encouraging for older adults. The team's Phase 3 trials data may be available by Christmas.

**For everyone, it bears repeating that this is all GOOD NEWS!**

What is less clear at this point, assuming both vaccines receive EUA approval, is how these vaccines will be distributed across the country, what the likely rollout schedule will be, and

how the priority of groups for vaccination will be determined. The Pines is engaging in every planning opportunity and relevant discussion possible to ensure The Pines community is included in the priority distribution and vaccination program for North Carolina. While we eagerly await the all-important details, we can assure you that with our entire population being over 65 years-of-age, The Pines will be among the priority groups, but information about the process and timeline for vaccination is still to come.

The federal government required all 50 states to submit a state-specific vaccine distribution plan. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) is reviewing those state plans, collecting additional information and integrating them into a broad-based national plan. It appears that the Administration may ultimately leave each state to determine distribution specifics, but how that will actually work is not yet clear.

It's also important to note that there are approximately 18 million frontline healthcare workers in the U.S. They are also among the priority groups and may – understandably – be among the earliest to receive vaccinations, hopefully before the end of this year. In addition to older adults, other priority groups include individuals with underlying medical conditions and underserved populations - especially communities of color.

Based on the initial projections, 40 million doses of vaccine are expected to be available for distribution before the end of the year; another 50 million in January and another 60 million in February or March. We also do not yet know how the major North Carolina health systems, county public health departments and major chain pharmacies, such as CVS and Walgreens, will be involved in the distribution and vaccination program, and how the primary responsibilities will be divided. These are important details which we will pass on to you once information is available.

We share your current excitement over the very positive news about COVID-19 vaccine development. This may well be the turning point we've all been hoping for with this pandemic. We do offer a word of caution... numerous bridges still must be crossed before vaccinations begin at the local level.

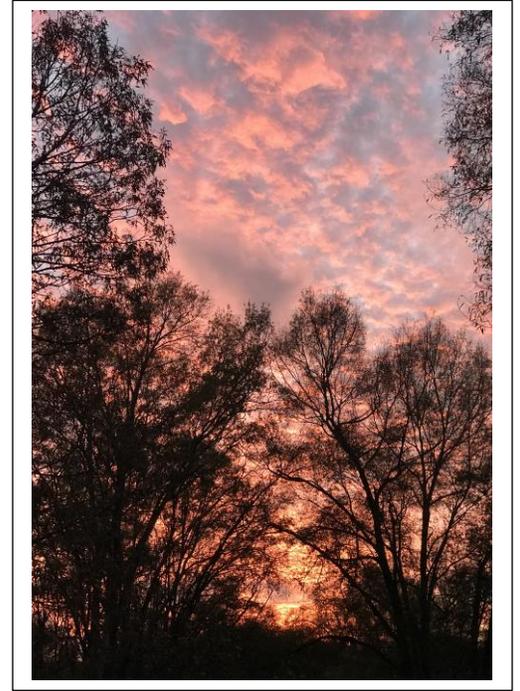
In the meantime, we urge you to rededicate yourselves to personal protocols for staying safe and staying healthy during the months ahead. Community spread across the country is greater than at any other time, and following the 3 W's is more crucial than ever before. And please add avoiding the 3 C's – avoid **“closed” spaces** with poor ventilation, avoid **“crowded” spaces** and avoid **“close” contact**.

When we truly behave like *“we're all in this together,”* we can more confidently get through these next few months and can then look forward to a much brighter 2021.

## Pastels

Many thanks to Rick Dynesius, future resident of the Poplar Hill Villas, for sharing a photo (left) of garden flowers. The image provides such a burst of color during these autumn days!

A staff member also shared a photo (right) of the spectacular sunset last Sunday. Nature expresses its beauty in both such minute and grand ways!



## Continuum Update

As you may know, Continuum's upgrade to all-digital service will improve picture quality and sound. To receive all-digital service, each TV will need its own Continuum set-top box (DTA). Without a set-top box, residents will not be able to see the channels after the conversion to the digital format.

Continuum will answer questions during the upcoming Zoom Information Session on **Tuesday 11/24 at 11am**. From **November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>** Continuum techs will be on site to install equipment. Continuum customer support will also be on site on December 4<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions.

If you need additional boxes, or would like to upgrade, here are the options:

### **Option 1: DTA Box**

Continuum will provide 1 DTA to each residence at no charge through October 31, 2021 (*free for six months*). Beyond that date it will be \$2.99 per month.

### **Option 2: HD (High Definition) Box \$8.99/month**

- Interactive Program Guide
  - 50 Channels of Music Choice

**To upgrade** to the HD (high definition) box, call **704-235-6327**

### **Option 3: HD/DVR Box**

- DVR Service included - never miss your favorite shows!

- Watch one show and record another at the same time!
- Interactive program guide
- 50 channels of Music Choice
- Access to all premium channels
- Pay-per-view and On Demand options

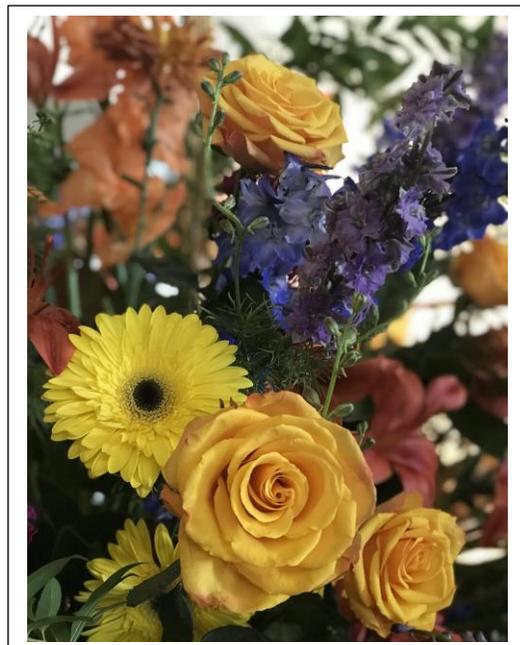
**To upgrade** to the HD/DVR box, call **704-235-6327**

For more information on all Continuum products and services, please visit them online at **ourcontinuum.com**

### **Thanksgiving Dining Services**

J. Paul Keiser, the Director of Culinary and Dining Services, distributed a memo to all residents yesterday that included both a preview of the Thanksgiving Day menu and information about the delivery of this meal. A special morning treat will be left at your door on Thanksgiving Day (11/26) between 8:00 am and 8:30 am.

Thanksgiving Day menus, which include entrée, side and dessert options, will be distributed to residents with their Tuesday (11/24) meal and will be picked up Wednesday morning (11/25) by 8:00 am. The Thanksgiving meal will arrive during regularly scheduled delivery times. We hope that everyone enjoys this special holiday.



### **Temporary Nursing Cottages**

As you may know, residents returning to the Assisted Living or Nursing neighborhoods from a hospital stay are cared for in temporary nursing cottages for 14 days. Their recuperation in these separate cottages helps prevent the possible spread of coronavirus in our nursing wing. The Pines is aware that some residents who have stayed in these cottages have expressed concerns about their experience.

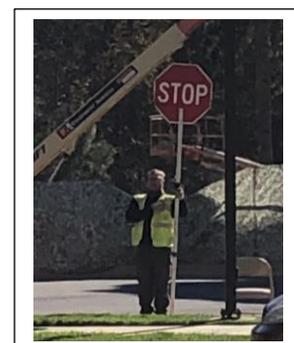
Management is addressing these concerns but would also like to share some details that may be helpful for the community to know:

- Staffing is based on census and care needs and we monitor it closely.
- The Pines' Medical Director, Dr. Ron Beamon, makes weekly rounds to the cottages.
- A Pines charge nurse will make visits anytime one is needed, 24/7.
- Carolyn Voelker, an RN Cottage Liaison, visits daily Monday through Friday.

- A Pines’ social worker visits as needed, delivers mail on weekdays, helps with the residents’ transition to this temporary accommodation and provides a welcome letter with important facts and phone numbers.
- Residents also receive a welcome packet and gift from the Culinary and Dining Department.
- Refreshments and snacks are available any time – day or night. The menu selections offered in the Cottages are plentiful and mirror those available to Health Center residents.
- The Pines’ Registered Dietitian visits residents in the Cottages as needed to assist with their nutritional needs, just as she does for residents of Assisted Living and Nursing.
- Daily housekeeping is provided as in the Health Center.
- Chairs, a TV, and bedside and overbed tables, are provided by The Pines. The Pines also brings other items to the cottage at a resident’s request.

### Flag Dedication Ceremony

Nearly 60 residents attended a flag dedication ceremony at the main entrance flagpole island yesterday. Art Englehardt and Stephen Fairly (photo, lower left) lowered the existing flag, which will be given to the Scouts BSA for proper retirement. Rev. Phil Craig accompanied by Bill Cash (photo, lower middle) blessed the new flag, which was then raised by Duke Williams and George Gabel (photo on right). Davidson College Presbyterian Church’s Pastor Robert Alexander played patriotic songs on a trumpet, including the Star-Spangled Banner. Rodgers Builders halted nearby construction for the ceremony, and during the Pledge of Allegiance, a construction worker was spotted joining the community in reciting the pledge (photo, lower right).



## Closing Image

Ginger Johnson, who enjoys painting barns, shares this photo of a recent oil painting she completed, entitled "At Dusk."

