



COVID-19 UPDATE

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff
Wednesday, February 24, 2021

New Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (2/24/2021)

Health Center Staff: 1 Case

Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines (2/24/2021)

Health Center Staff: 1 Case

Non-Health Center Staff: 1 Case

A Note From Heather McKee, Interim CEO and Executive Director

After last week's second COVID-19 vaccination clinic at The Pines, our community began to feel a little safer amidst a worldwide pandemic that will continue to be a challenge in the months to come. As I shared in my [Monday Minutes video](#), we were delighted that 442 vaccines were administered at The Pines during this recent clinic, mostly as second doses for health center residents, independent living residents and staff but also, as first doses for staff who had not participated in the earlier clinic. (These individuals will receive their second dose during a March clinic.) Due to the encouragement of management, fellow staff members and residents, The Pines may be very close to 70% staff participation in these vaccine clinics, an impressive percentage relative to other health care communities.

Some of you have contacted management to ask when The Pines' safety policies will be lifted to accommodate the large percentage of residents who have been vaccinated and are coming close to the two weeks wait time that helps assure the vaccine's effectiveness. In consultation with our Medical Director and other health experts, the Resident Reopening Committee (Emmie Alexander, George Gabel, and Bob Osborn), and The Pines Board of Directors Resident Care Committee, The Pines management team will roll out a series of modifications over the next several weeks and we will be communicating some of these changes in our safety policies soon. We will be monitoring closely the Governor's

orders, which may be modified this week as well as other important factors such as the area COVID-19 case positivity rate, which thankfully is declining.

Please remember that The Pines still needs to adhere to state regulations and emerging CDC guidance regarding COVID-19 restrictions, particularly as the virus evolves. It is not clear, for example, whether or not a vaccinated individual can still become infected with COVID-19 and unknowingly transmit it. As I shared in my video, the CDC released public health recommendations for vaccinated persons that state:

“While mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated high efficacy at preventing severe and symptomatic COVID-19, **there is currently limited information on how much the vaccines might reduce transmission and how long protection lasts.** In addition, **the efficacy of the vaccines against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants is not known.**”

Thus, even if you have been vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask, practice social distancing, avoid crowds, avoid poorly ventilated spaces, cover coughs and sneezes, and wash hands often.

As we prepare to introduce a modified return to services and activities, we remind residents to stay informed about the risks still present during this pandemic, assess those risks and act responsibly for their safety and the community’s if they choose to leave campus. As you may have heard Dr. Anthony Fauci and other health experts note, this public health crisis continues to evolve and a return to “normal” may take a better part of this year. We appreciate your continued patience and ability to look out for each other during this exciting but still tenuous time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Town of Davidson Public Art Commission Banner Project

Earlier today, the Town of Davidson Art Commission held a virtual dedication for its Banner Project, featuring artwork designed by 26 individuals living in Davidson, including Pines’ resident Pidge Osborn (whose banner is pictured right).

The Committee noted that these artworks illustrate “key ingredients of strong communities and our best selves: Respect, empathy, justice, equality, equity, love, belonging, inclusion, unity, peace, and understanding.” Please enjoy learning more about these banners and viewing them by pressing this link: [Banner Project](#)



Closing Image

Many thanks to Marcia Fowler for sharing with us a watercolor she painted of Mount Prospect, her paternal grandmother's home. Built 1774 in Leggett, NC, this house burned down in the mid-1970s. How wonderful that it lives on in this watercolor!

