

COVID-19 Update – 1/22/2021 – Vaccine and Next Steps

To: Residents, Families and Team Members – The Waters Senior Living

We are excited to report that The Waters Senior Living has **successfully** held eight vaccine clinics as of 1/21/21 and we will be conducting the final three “first dosage clinics” over the next two weeks.

So far, the clinics have been filled with hope, relief, fun, and teamwork. Residents, and team members alike, worked together to create a memorable experience with anticipation for what life can be like in due time.

Things to Know:

- **Participation is strong.** We are averaging 98% participation of residents, and between 45% - 75% for team members. As more clinics are conducted, we anticipate more team members will sign up.
- **Minimal to no symptoms.** With hundreds of residents and team members already vaccinated, most have reported no symptoms or minor symptoms which have resolved either shortly after the vaccine administration, or within a couple of days. Main effects seem to be a sore arm at the vaccination site and general fatigue.
- **Essential Caregivers.** The Waters Communities are collaborating with pharmacies to explore the option for **existing** Essential Caregivers to be included in the second clinics for their first vaccine dose. The Waters feels that Essential Caregivers are indeed part of the ‘front-line staff’ that contributes to the health and wellbeing of our residents. However, due to the limited number of vaccines available nation-wide, we know that we may not be able to accommodate all Essential Caregivers. We ask that you give us some time to solidify plans and process with the partnering pharmacies. Your community’s Executive Director will provide further confirmation and direction as soon as we have a definitive plan.
- **“When are we going to open up our buildings?” or “When are visitors going to be allowed again?”** The short answer is *nothing has changed related to restrictions and guidelines in place to combat COVID-19.* In fact, despite the large number of people whom have already received the vaccine (specifically in our setting), the state departments have not issued *any* changes in recommendations or guidelines related to social gatherings, visitation, etc. We can assure you that we are monitoring all three of our state health departments and the CDC for updates on a daily basis. We know that the vaccine prevents symptoms, but does not eliminate the spread.

- **We must remain vigilant.** It is very important to maintain our consistent practices of: wearing a mask, socially distancing, adhering to rigorous infection control practices, and washing hands frequently.
- **Second dose (booster) clinics.** We are beginning to hear confirmation on dates for the second dose. Most are 28 days following the first clinic. Your Executive Director will give you further updates as they receive confirmation from the pharmacy.
- **Second dose reminder.** If you have had the first dose, and receive confirmation that you are COVID-positive, you will not be able to participate in the second dose, according to vaccine protocol. As has been practice, please inform your Executive Director or Director of Health and Wellbeing if you have any symptoms.

We express our sincerest gratitude to all residents and team members of the Waters who have battled this pandemic for the past year. This is such an exciting time, and we appreciate all that you are doing to help us get back to life before COVID.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Executive Director.

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The Waters logo features the text "THE WATERS" in a serif font, with three horizontal lines above the letter "W".

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