



December 30, 2020

RE: COVID 19 Update

Dear Patrons, Family Members and Loved Ones:

As 2020 comes to a close, everyone is anxious to put this year in the past. Clearly, this has been a difficult year for everyone, including all staff members, managers, residents and family members.

A COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available to all residents and staff. Schedules are beginning to take shape and arrangements are being finalized for a vaccine clinic to be administered at your community in the near future.

At this time, the virus is still very active and continues to infect our residents and employees. In fact, October, November and December have been the worst for our communities. Particularly, the week after Thanksgiving resulted in a large spike in cases, hospitalizations, and losses of life.

We need to make everyone aware that, even as the vaccine becomes available and our communities receive their doses, while this will be a huge step toward returning to some sense of normalcy, the issues associated with the virus will not disappear immediately. We expect to continue to see the threat of infection in some form through 2021. We are hopeful that this will be to a lesser degree than 2020, but we must remain cautious of that fact that our residents are still the most vulnerable populations for the virus. We will continue to take all necessary precautions after the vaccine is administered, including wearing personal protective equipment and conducting regular testing, to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.

We are encouraged that this vaccine can help to bring this pandemic to a close. You can visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines to learn more.

Today, we have no clear guidance or specific date to offer for a return to normal visitation. We continue to wait for direction and understand and sympathize with your concern and frustration. What we do know for certain is that the best formula for safety is still to minimize exposure to our residents. While the separation is painful, a loss is excruciating. Many of us know this firsthand.

The moment vaccine clinics are confirmed and scheduled your specific community, we will be notifying you directly with that information. At this time, vaccines are reserved for residents and staff. We do not anticipate having doses available for family members or loved ones at this time.

Sincerely,

SSMG COVID Response Team