



GOLDEN GATE

REHABILITATION & HEALTH CARE CENTER

December 15, 2020

Dear Resident/Resident Representatives/Family Members,


We have long awaited this exciting news! On December 11, 2020, FDA approved Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for administration of the first COVID-19 vaccine. We, along with thousands of other long term care facilities, are participating in a program with the Centers for Disease Control and with Walgreens Pharmacy to help us most efficiently distribute these vaccines to all our residents and staff free of charge.

We understand that some of you may be concerned about the safety of these new vaccines, as they have been developed and tested far more quickly than those in the past. We want to assure you that the speed with which these vaccines were developed is not due to skipping important safety steps, but rather the result of focused, collaborative work performed by experts across the globe. Vaccines approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have undergone the same level of rigorous testing for safety and efficacy as other vaccines, and have been tested in tens of thousands of people, including older adults. Two independent advisory committees of experts from academic institutions also monitor vaccines to ensure their safety.

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines require two separate doses given about three or four weeks apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated, with more pronounced discomfort after the second dose. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. Sometimes there is misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions, as you may have heard someone say a vaccine has “made them sick” or given them the disease that the vaccine was intended to prevent. We want to be clear that this is not the case. The COVID-19 vaccine cannot give you a COVID-19 infection. The vaccine works by helping the body create antibodies to fight off the virus. Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.

I encourage you to thoroughly review all enclosed educational material. We anticipate administration of the COVID-19 vaccine as early as next week and urge you to **SIGN and RETURN** the Walgreens Vaccine Administration Informed Consent form to the facility as soon as possible in order to participate in the program. Please be aware that signed consent is required; pre-paid reply envelope is enclosed for your convenience. As we have been saying over the course of this difficult year, we are all in this together. Please know that the safety and well-being of our staff and residents have been and remain our top priority. We are confident that the worldwide, unprecedented scientific achievement of these COVID-19 vaccines will eventually enable us to enjoy life with our loved ones again. We look forward to doing our part in this effort by getting the COVID-19 vaccine, and hope you will join us.

Sincerely,


Yehuda Hoffner, LNHA
Administrator