

January 5, 2020

Dear Charles River Community,

I hope that you had a wonderful start to 2021! We are very hopeful that 2021 will bring us a gradual sense of normalcy in our daily practices. The [Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) is an integral part of returning to a sense of normalcy as more and more people opt to receive it. I wanted to give you an update on where we stand in obtaining the vaccine for our residential staff and residents.

As you know, the federal vaccination program is rolling out much slower than expected across the nation and this has affected the roll out of vaccines in Massachusetts as well. CVS and Walgreens were selected to provide vaccines to those in phase 1 of the plan including nursing homes, assisted living, and group homes, but their supply and bandwidth are limited. This will result in some agencies and specific group homes getting vaccinated sooner than others. I am assured, however that all will be vaccinated in phase 1 as more vaccines become available, albeit at a staggered pace. I am also exploring partnerships with smaller pharmacies and other organizations to deliver the vaccines as an alternative solution.

We are using this delay to launch an educational campaign for staff to learn about the pros and cons of the vaccine, encouraging but not mandating that residential staff get vaccinated. Guardians of our residents will be asked to sign releases for the residents to receive the vaccine. If you are unsure, use this time to speak with the resident's primary care physician to determine if the vaccine is recommended.

On a positive note, we continue to see a relatively low positivity rate among staff and residents. This is a direct result of the strict adherence to our visitation policies and infectious disease protocols. We are optimistic that we will not see a spike in positivity cases two weeks following New Year's Day, either.

Reliable Information about the COVID-19 Vaccines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC)

- [COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

As always, I will keep you updated as we learn more information about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Be well,

Anne-Marie Bajwa
President and CEO