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December 14, 2020

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends,

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved one COVID 19 vaccination for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) with potentially more vaccines to be approved soon. Residents and employees of Long-term Care facilities are expected to be among the early recipients.

We understand that some of you have concerns about the safety of these new vaccines. We want to assure you that these vaccines were developed using all of the important safety standards utilized for the development of other vaccines. Scientists and Experts from all over the world were focused on the vaccine development enabling the process to move quickly. The vaccines approved through the FDA will have undergone the same level of rigorous testing for safety and efficacy as other vaccines and have been tested on thousands of people, including older adults.

Some of the vaccines require two separate doses 21-28 days apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of the 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 a misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions. The COVID 19 vaccine contains no live virus and cannot give you COVID -19 infection. Having these side effects is not cause for alarm. It can actually mean that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.

We are participating with the federal government through the Walgreens COVID -19 Vaccination Program for Long term Care facilities. Walgreens will schedule three clinic dates for administration of the COVID Vaccine to our residents and staff. We do not yet know the dates for our clinics or the vaccine that will be administered. We have been in communication with Walgreens, so that we may administer this important vaccine to our population as soon as it becomes available. We have updated our website to include the EUA for the Pfizer Vaccine, the Vaccine Consent, and links the CDC. All residents must have a signed consent in order to receive the vaccination. We will continue to share information as it becomes available to us.

As always, thank you for all your support. Remember to wear a mask, wash your hands, and practice social distancing. We are in this together and we need to rely on each other for the health and safety of our community. We will continue to provide updates to you via telephone blast texts if you have subscribed or through mailings. You may email any questions to covidquestions@citizensnf.com.

Sincerely,

Karen Howes, Administrator