

December 10, 2020



Dear Residents & Family Members,

This past year we have faced many unforeseen challenges due to COVID-19. By now you have probably learned that COVID-19 vaccines will soon be approved and ready for distribution to the healthcare workers and residents in long term care. We have long awaited this exciting news.

We have proactively contracted with a pharmacy provider to administer the vaccine when it becomes available to our residents and healthcare workers. **We strongly recommend and encourage our residents & staff members to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available.**

Safety is our top priority and there are many reasons to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated will provide a safe environment for both residents and employees.

We do 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.

The vaccine works by helping the body create antibodies to fight off the virus. Some participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. **There can be 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. Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.**

We, along with thousands of other long-term care facilities, are participating in a program with the Centers for Disease Control to help us most efficiently distribute these vaccines to our residents free of charge once they are available. We will keep you informed of this process as we move forward. Our staff will also have the opportunity to get vaccinated through this program, if they have not been vaccinated previously.

Stopping a pandemic requires everyone to take the necessary steps to protect themselves and their loved ones. Please know that the safety and wellbeing of our staff and residents have been and remain our top priority. We are confident that the 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.

Thank you for your support in protecting our residents. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Drew Leroy, Nursing Home Administrator** at (717)-264-2715.

For additional information on COVID-19, please visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our residents.

Warm Regards,

Drew Leroy  
Nursing Home Administrator  
Laurel Lakes Rehabilitation & Wellness Center