



January 12, 2021

Timber Ridge Staff and Families,

We are thankful that we have not had a Timber Ridge resident test positive for COVID-19 since December 27th and our last staff member to test positive was on January 4th. We need to go 28 days without a new facility onset case of COVID-19 for the health department to consider our outbreak to be over, so while we do have a ways to go things are looking much better. Our in-house day program has reopened, and we are hopeful that next week some residents may be able to go back to TCRC for their day program if our region of the state is able to move forward out of “tier 3 mitigation”. When that happens we also hope to be able to share dates and protocols for resuming visits at Timber Ridge.

We recognize that this has been an extremely challenging year for our residents, their loved ones, and our staff. It is very encouraging that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found a COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective. Tazewell County Health Department is currently offering the vaccination to health care workers which includes our staff. Several of our nurses and other staff have made appointments and received their first shot there already. We are also moving forward with our plans to make the vaccine available to all residents and staff here at Timber Ridge. These plans include an agreement with CVS to come to Timber Ridge and conduct vaccination clinics. As of today we do not have a date yet for the first clinic, but we do expect it to be within the next few weeks and we will provide additional details as soon as they are available. Before the pharmacy can give the vaccine, we will need consent from residents and staff members. Residents and staff will NOT have to pay to receive the vaccine.

We are strongly encouraging all staff and residents to get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as it is offered. This is not a mandate and we understand there are some who are hesitant, but we do believe that this vaccination is our best chance to move back toward a more normal life for everyone at Timber Ridge in the shortest amount of time. We have been blessed with very few serious illnesses and no deaths due to COVID-19 so far, but our residents remain among those who have the highest risk for getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19. The vaccine has been shown to provide a great deal of protection against serious illness due to COVID-19. The more of us that get vaccinated, the better we can protect our residents, our families, and our community against further outbreaks. Together we can save lives.

The vaccine has gone through testing and clinical trials to ensure it meets the highest safety standards. It is also safe to get if you already have had the virus. Potential side effects are listed on this [VACCINE FACT SHEET](#). You will find that these side effects are similar to the potential side effects of the flu shot, but they occur in more people. However, the health and safety of our residents is always our top priority, and we are confident this vaccine is a much better option than the risk of getting this virus.

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The vaccine requires two doses, and those getting it will need to get both doses to ensure the best results. The second dose will be given approximately 21 to 28 days after the first dose. At this time 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 will also work with public health officials to determine how and when to adjust our policies for PPE, testing, visitations and social activities and will keep you updated.

Please feel free to reach back out to us if you have any additional questions. We are here to help make sure you feel comfortable with this process.

Thanks,

*Darrell Stoller*

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