
COVID-19 UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND STAFF
FROM: BARB NATHAN
DATE: JANUARY 8, 2021

The journey continues. In the last two days, approximately 300 people here at Westminster were vaccinated, receiving the first of two shots. The second dose of vaccine will be delivered to the individuals in three weeks. This is a huge step forward and allows that glimmer of light to get brighter. While we celebrate this milestone, we continue to work with the daily challenges of COVID and work to protect each other.

This week in our Martin Health Center testing we had one resident test positive. This resident is doing well but has been moved to the isolation wing. Four staff tested positive and all are doing well. We continue to welcome back staff that have been previously quarantined. Our prayers are with the families of two of our residents who died in the hospital this week. These individuals had previously tested positive. Two more residents remain in the hospital and we look forward to their return to Westminster Village. For Assisted Living, all residents tested negative which means there have not been any cases there in more than a month. Staff is doing a wonderful job of caring for all residents.

Advocacy for the vaccination of Independent Living residents will occupy a portion of my day today, as we have learned that the prohibition of CVS for administering the vaccine to independent residents of a continuing care retirement community is an edict from the State, not the national agreement with CVS. I will be reaching out to our legislators to lobby the Governor's office to allow Independent Living residents be tested in the upcoming weeks when CVS returns. I, of course, will keep you informed as to whether we are successful with that.

I was asked yesterday by a staff member if getting the vaccine means that we can stop wearing masks. It does not; it means that we are protected but we still have the responsibility to protect each other. Mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing will be a part of our future for quite a period of time. We await further information on the restrictions that Governor Pritzker is going to ease regarding the mitigation for COVID, and we will consider those as we examine our programming going forward.

Yes, the journey continues, but we are getting through it, and we are getting through it together.