
WESTMINSTER UPDATE

TO: WESTMINSTER VILLAGE RESIDENTS AND TEAM MEMBERS
FROM: BARB NATHAN
DATE: AUGUST 20, 2021

As always, there is a lot going on here at Westminster. I am so grateful to work with the team members that are here, but also, I, as well as them, are honored to work for you.

This week, it was reported that vaccine boosters will be available around September 20 pending approval for them by the FDA. When the vaccine received emergency use authorization late in 2020 there was significant frustration because there was an approved vaccine but not a distribution model for it. This time it appears they are identifying the distribution model ahead of the approval. The booster does have to be approved by the FDA though they anticipate that it will come in early September.

We have already heard from our pharmacy partner that they will have availability of the boosters for us, and we are working out the details that we will be able to put into place, hopefully, in late September. We will keep you informed of this. We have not heard the exact timing at which this booster should be given. Right now, they are describing it as 8 months, but we anticipate that there will be a window of time that surrounds that, and we will wait for that guidance. The earliest vaccines here at Westminster were completed in late January and for them 8 months is late September, so we are on target to meet the recommendation.

Until then, if you are immunocompromised, the vaccine booster is currently approved for those conditions. I suggest you talk to your doctor if you feel you meet that criterion. There are only a few conditions that do, including cancer. Please talk with your physician if you think you would be eligible for the vaccine booster now.

We have made a change to the visitation policies for Martin Health Center and Assisted Living because of the increased number of COVID cases in the area. Visitors who are 11 years of age or younger will not be allowed to make inside visits. These young visitors will need to meet you outside.

This week, representatives from the Carle Accountable Care Organization (who are with their post-acute network) were on site to train people within Martin Health Center on the policies and procedures for that network. We are excited to be joining that network and the onboarding should be completed within a couple of weeks.

We are aware that Sunday dining, in the Herth and Landing, has become a challenge and there is a myriad of reasons for this. Primarily is the fact that many people come within a brief time frame which overwhelms both the service and the kitchen. Several suggestions have been made to improve this and it will be further discussed at the Food Committee meeting on August 25. We will improve the process as quickly as possible. Until then, I encourage you, if you are able, to please come after 12:00 rather than between 11:00-12:00. We serve 180 people in that short window on Sundays so spreading people over the entire time period would help everyone's experience.

This week a resident gave me photos of the Fountain that were taken during dusk and after the sun had set. I was stunned at how beautiful it is when illuminated by the colored lights. I encourage everyone to spend some time on the patio outside the Club Room or to look out windows that face Foundation Fountain Park after dark to see this beautiful sculpture when it is illuminated. It gives the area a completely distinctive look. We are so incredibly grateful to the Foundation for this gift.