

Memorandum

To: Residents, Families and Team Members of Porter Hills Village Assisted Living and Health and Rehabilitation Center, Chelsea Retirement Community Assisted Living and Kresge Rehabilitation Center and Meadowlark Assisted Living

From: Steve Fetyko, President and CEO

Date: 12/9/2020

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Administration in UMRC and Porter Hills Care Areas

After many long months of waiting, we have been informed we will soon start to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at our Porter Hills Village, Chelsea Retirement Community and Meadowlark communities! Our pharmaceutical partner, CVS, has notified us they believe we will be able to begin administering the vaccine to our residents and team members before the end of December 2020, pending final FDA approval of the vaccine.

This is wonderful news! Many of us long to share hugs, welcome our families, and bring our smiles out from behind our masks, and receiving the vaccine is a critical step to that day. And the timing couldn't be better. As we flip our calendars to 2021 and begin to look forward to the new year, this vaccine brings with it a great deal of renewed hope.

It's a sense of optimism many of our residents remember well. Today's generation of older adults has led the way when it comes to vaccines—they recall too clearly the ravages of polio and the sounds of whooping cough. Now they will again be our pioneers as we begin to eradicate COVID-19 and ease its effects on our nation.

The COVID-19 vaccine has been developed by the world's top scientists and medical experts and will be approved after careful clinical review by epidemiologists and global health researchers. It will be administered to our care areas and team members in accordance with state and federal requirements by CVS, which has been working closely with the infection control teams and operational leaders of UMRC/PH.

Because our front-line caregivers and older adults are most at risk from COVID-19, they will be at the front of the line to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. While it is not mandated, we highly encourage each of our community and team members to take advantage of the valuable opportunity we have to inoculate Porter Hills Village, Chelsea Retirement Community and Meadowlark against the dangers of COVID-19.

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We understand some of you may have questions about the vaccine. If you do, please visit our website at www.umrc.com or www.porterhills.org to learn more and ensure you're ready to join with our entire community in moving past this year's pandemic and ensuring a better 2021. This site contains links to the facts about the vaccine and known side effects as well as the significant benefits.

There are still some details yet to be determined as our state and federal public health officials work to bring the COVID-19 vaccine to people across the nation.

- **It's not clear exactly when the vaccine will make its arrival.** We expect CVS will be on site sometime before the end of the year for the first dose and again in January for the second dose.

It is likely we'll receive very short notice from CVS—perhaps even less than a day—before they come to deliver the vaccine. We are positioning ourselves to be nimble and efficient as we await additional direction from our vaccine provider. Along the way, we'll be working hard to keep you informed and ready to act when CVS comes. This likely will require us to start working to gather your consent, insurance information and other necessary paperwork in the coming days to be ready for CVS on short notice.

- **We don't know exactly who among us will be vaccinated first.** We understand some residents and team members will be included in Phase One of vaccine distribution, [as outlined by MDHHS](#), but we do not have specifics on whom this will include.

Our preliminary understanding is CVS will vaccinate people in care areas first. This includes Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living residents, as well as all team members who work in these areas. We expect Independent Living residents and team members will also be near the front of the line, but alternative vaccination plans will be developed by the state for those residents, potentially through local health departments or store-front pharmacies. Our hope is most, if not all, of our community can receive the vaccine during Phase One.

- **There may be some false starts.** The unique storage, security and transportation requirements of the vaccine itself may create some challenges. Fortunately, our dedicated team members are focused on working to anticipate and meet all CVS requirements.

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If you have questions about the vaccine and/or its administration, we invite you to join us for one of our upcoming Zoom drop-ins. These informal events offer an opportunity for you to ask your questions personally as we plan and prepare for this historic vaccine distribution.

Zoom Drop-Ins for Residents of Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing

- Dec. 14th 12:30-1:30
pm <https://zoom.us/j/98373166445?pwd=Y1U4RGkreWk4MThqbG1wNW14aGNrZz09>
- Dec. 16th 6:00-7:00
PM <https://zoom.us/j/92845532687?pwd=TEFyL2tmdHJxVnU5Z0ZwSU9qbzZGZz09>

Zoom Drop-Ins for Team Members of/and who support Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing

- Dec. 15th 9:00-10:00
am <https://zoom.us/j/95282117556?pwd=RjgwaXRwMHpzMXlZMEVXZnhud0dLz09>
- Dec. 16th 7:00-8:00
pm <https://zoom.us/j/95979461833?pwd=aU0zendsOU1V1dIW9hT0drZnB0QT09>

As always, we offer our sincere gratitude to the team members and residents whose responsible actions have helped us take care of one another during this challenging global crisis. Working together, we have weathered this pandemic in ways that have been truly extraordinary. The arrival of this vaccine marks the beginning of the end of our shared hardship and the beginning of a new era at UMRC and Porter Hills.

While we work toward all being vaccinated, please remember to support our community by following the below recommendations:

- Reporting any possible exposure to or signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- Wearing a mask when in common areas
- Practicing physical distancing and good hand hygiene

Thank you for your support. We will provide updates regularly. Please direct COVID-19 questions via email to covidinfo@umrc.com or call 734-412-4009.