

December 8, 2020

A MESSAGE REGARDING THE COVID-19 VACCINE FROM GREG

A Personal Choice, But an Easy Decision

I have shared with you in recent voice messages that we are truly blessed in that the CDC and related agencies have deemed licensed assisted living facilities to be considered “Tier 1A” priorities to receive the Covid vaccine. Both residents and employees. That means that we are right alongside “front line” doctors and nurses working in ICU, as well as categories such as emergency medical personnel.

Those residents that live in unlicensed independent living duets here at Ponte are also incredibly fortunate in that our pharmacy partner has indicated they will allow you to also be included in this initial vaccine delivery wave. Strictly independent living communities are not so fortunate.

As I have also shared, we have what I would consider to be really solid traction in the planning and implementation phases of the process of CVS/Omnicare coming to the community to deliver the vaccine. We will have three scheduled dates where they will come to us. Recipients will need to participate in two of them, the vaccine is “two stage”. It is critical that recipients receive both stages. The clinic dates will be 30 days apart. The required period of waiting between receiving the first and the second dose is 21 or 28 days depending on the brand.

This project will be a tremendous undertaking and will require substantial of manpower on the part of the community. We will need to obtain completed, signed consent forms from all recipients as well as their insurance information.

As the title to this letter says, my opinion is that the decision to participate and to take the vaccine is a personal choice, but it is a very easy decision. I have participated in several calls and presentations this past 10 days in which every single expert, every person of knowledge and integrity on this subject, is resolute in stating that any individual that has the opportunity should jump at this opportunity as soon as possible unless there is a very unique personal health reason not to. We have seen on a very intimate level at this community that even with our concerted efforts to protect ourselves, it still can find its way to us and the consequences are brutal.

You likely have heard the efficacy levels of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are outstanding, in the 94%-95% range. This is in the same range as the Polio and Measles vaccines, and far superior to the Chickenpox and Flu vaccines most all of us have taken. The vaccine trials that were conducted were certainly expedited due to the crisis of the pandemic, but they still were able to include over 70,000 individuals in the trials. This is by far the largest test group every included for a vaccine such as this. And the side effects are considered to be relatively nominal.

I have included all residents and staff in the projected dose counts that I have provided CVS/Omnicare. In very short order we will embark on the tasks associated with setting up our clinics. First and most important will be to get the consent forms completed and insurance information captured. We are going to assume all will take the vaccine when we come around to your home.

I will send out voice broadcasts as we close in on this process. Be ready with your insurance information. We will need a picture of the front and back of your insurance card. If you decline, there will not be an opportunity to reconsider. There just is not time or manpower for this. I have posted some really comprehensive materials on the vaccine topic on our website under the “Covid-19 Response” tab, Announcements subtab. These documents are much too large to distribute, and there is also a link to a webinar that is very informative.

I will continue to communicate with you on this topic and will volunteer to be right at the front of the line to take the vaccine. Greg