



SUNNYSIDE VILLAGE

5201 Bahia Vista St. Sarasota, Florida 34232 • 941-371-2750 • SunnysideVillage.org
A Christian Senior Living Community

December 18, 2020

Dear Health Center Resident and Representatives,

By now, you have probably learned that the COVID-19 vaccines are approved and ready for distribution to **healthcare staff and residents in long-term care**. We understand that you may be concerned about the safety of these new vaccines since they were developed and tested far more quickly than those in the past. Vaccines approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have undergone the same rigorous testing for safety and efficacy as other vaccines. They have been tested in tens of thousands of people, including older adults. Two independent advisory committees of experts from academic institutions also monitor vaccines to ensure their safety.

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines require two separate doses given about three or four weeks apart, depending on the vaccine. Participants of clinical trials have reported experiencing short-term side effects after being vaccinated, with more pronounced discomfort after the second dose. These possible side effects include headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever, and pain at the injection site. Sometimes there is a misunderstanding about the cause of these reactions, as you may have heard someone say a vaccine has “made them sick” or given them the disease that the vaccine was intended to prevent. We want to be clear that this is not the case. The COVID-19 vaccine cannot give you a COVID-19 infection. The vaccine works by helping the body create antibodies to fight off the virus. Feeling discomfort after getting the vaccine means that the vaccine is doing its job and your body is making antibodies.

Along with thousands of other long-term care facilities, we are participating in a program with the Centers for Disease Control to help us most efficiently distribute these vaccines **to our long-term Health Center residents** free of charge. Our staff will also have the opportunity to get vaccinated through this program.

We are scheduled for **our first vaccination clinic with CVS on Tuesday, December 29th**, and the **second clinic on Tuesday, January 19th**. All **Health Center long-term residents** or their representatives are required to consent to receive the vaccination, and this process will begin as soon as CVS provides us with the paperwork. We will contact you or your representative when we have received the paperwork necessary to obtain consent.

Included with this letter is some information from the CDC on the vaccine. I continue to update extension 690 every Monday and Thursday with our most current information, which is also posted to our website, SunnysideVillage.org. Residents, please stay tuned in to channel 103 with updates.

I encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, its possible side effects, and what to expect after you or a loved one receives it. As we have been saying over the course of this difficult year, **we are all in this together. Please know that the safety**

and wellbeing of our staff and residents have been and remain our top priority. We are confident that the worldwide, unprecedented scientific achievement of these COVID-19 vaccines will eventually enable us to enjoy life with our loved ones again.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Maliwacki
Director of Health Services

Note: This information does not apply to the residents of the Manor assisted living or Village residential living.