

**COVID-19 Vaccination Letter to Residents/Representatives and Staff**

Date:

Dear **[enter intended recipient],**

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) recently amended the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for the COVID-19 vaccines, which authorizes certain individuals to obtain a second booster dose. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reviewed the EUA guidance and issued recommendations for individuals 50 years or older and those who have immunocompromising conditions to receive a second booster dose of an mRNA vaccine such as Pfizer or Moderna. Since the majority of our residents meet this criteria, **[enter community name]** encourages all residents, families, and staff who are eligible to remain up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

What does up to date mean? The CDC currently defines up to date as receiving all doses of a primary series and one booster dose when eligible. The current definition does not include a second booster dose, however, it may in the future. It is important that all residents, family and staff stay up to date with vaccines to prevent transmission of COVID-19 to the vulnerable population that we serve.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continue to issue guidance for nursing homes to aide with prevention and transmission of COVID-19 in long-term care settings. While the current state of the pandemic is far better than what it was two years ago, it is still possible for variant strains to develop that may cause surges of COVID-19 illness, placing the residents we provide care for at an increased risk for severe illness, hospitalization, and death. CMS continues to work closely with the CDC on issuing guidance that reduces this risk, including flexibility for the residents and staff that are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. In addition to potentially reducing the risk for severe COVID-19 disease, those that are up to date on vaccines generally are not required to isolate to their rooms when they have close contact with an individual that tests positive for COVID-19 or upon leaving [**enter community name]** for longer periods of time. Preventing unnecessary isolation has proven crucial to the psychosocial well-being of the residents entrusted in our care.

Please communicate your intention of providing a second booster dose as well as directing any questions you may have to **[enter contact person and information]** as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

**[Insert Name]**

**[Insert Title]**