



December 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a very difficult year for many of us. We are hoping to diminish some fears that have been looming the past 9 months. We are pleased to inform you that we have been contacted by Walgreens regarding vaccinations that are over 90% effective in the prevention of COVID-19 for the individuals that we support, as well as the staff. Walgreens has partnered with the federal government to assist in the protection of the individuals that we support and long-term care staff from COVID-19 through the administration of this vaccination.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the National Center for Disease Control, the Iowa Department of Public Health, our local public health agencies, as well as our agency strongly suggest that your loved one receives this 2-step vaccination as the best way to protect him/her during this pandemic. Even if your loved one has had COVID-19, the vaccination is still recommended as an increased protection through these uncertain times.

Walgreens will conduct the entire vaccination process at our facilities. In order to do this, we need to assist with obtaining written consent. Our administrative staff will work with Walgreens staff to administer the vaccinations to both residents and staff on a couple of limited time frames. **With that being said, it is with utmost importance that we receive this consent form back as soon as possible.** A self-addressed, stamped envelope has been provided for your convenience. This vaccination is being provided without any direct cost to the staff or the individuals that we support. There must be at least 21 days between the 2 doses and Walgreens will track this and report to the proper agencies.

If you have concerns regarding the vaccination, we encourage you to watch the video at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb_MoeGOMSI&feature=youtube It answers several common questions. Mayo Clinic also has a very informative question and answer document that is available by Googling "Mayo Clinic FAQs for COVID-19 vaccination." We truly believe it is essential that the individuals we support and the staff receive the vaccination so we can do our part to work toward return of our "normal" lives without the constant fear of spreading the virus. If you have further questions after reviewing the consent, video, or the other references listed, please direct those questions to your area manager and they can assist with finding answers. Although we are not mandating your consent to the vaccine, we are strongly encouraging you allow your loved one to be vaccinated. If you do not wish for your loved one to have the vaccination, please print REFUSE in the signature area and initial it. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter!

Sincerely,

Ryan Becker
Associate Director