

January 6, 2021

Dear CMSS Staff:

Through our first vaccination clinic at Wesley Place this past Sunday, we were able to administer our first doses of the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine to a significant number of CMSS employees and residents. When I came in for my own vaccine Sunday morning, I felt a rush of excitement and the feeling that I was experiencing the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a successful clinic in many ways and outside of the known common side effects, we are not aware of any resident or staff member who experienced any adverse reactions to the vaccine. On behalf of all who received the vaccine on Sunday, thank you to those who worked tirelessly to coordinate such an important and streamlined clinic.

Those who received their first dose of the vaccine on Sunday, January 3, should mark their calendars to return to Wesley Place for their second dose on Sunday, January 31. In addition, Hartwell Place (first clinic date on Monday, January 11) and Covenant Home (first clinic date on Wednesday, January 20) will be holding their own onsite clinics in the coming weeks for staff and residents and Evanston has rolled out a community clinic that will be an additional resource for SASI employees. For those that work at Hartwell Place, Covenant Home, or SASI, look out for more information coming your way.

While this milestone is a cause for celebration, I would like to take a moment to remind everyone that we are not out of the woods yet and we are very much still in the middle of a pandemic. At this time, the vaccine is only partially effective for those who received their first dose, and individuals will not have the full protection of the vaccine (95% effective) until several weeks after the second dose is administered.

That means that at CMSS, we still are and will be for the foreseeable future, following the many infection control protocols we have all become accustomed to over the past year, including:

- Any time you are at work and in a public area or near other people, you must have a mask on.
- Any time you are inside with another person within 6 feet of you, you must have a mask and face shield on.
- Any one going to a resident area must have a mask, face shield, and gown on.
- Always follow isolation protocol when entering and exiting an isolation room.
- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly.
- If you are sick or not feeling well in any way, you should not come to work.

For those staff members at Wesley Place who initially declined the opportunity to receive the vaccine for reasons other than preexisting health concerns, I hope you will consider a future opportunity to receive the vaccine. If you work at Wesley Place and are now interested in getting the vaccine, please reach out to Rose to let her know. Our current understanding is that you can receive your first dose on Sunday, January 31 when others are receiving their second dose. Our goal is to have 100% of eligible staff and residents vaccinated. By getting as many people as possible vaccinated, we are collectively reducing the risk of another devastating COVID-19 outbreak in one of our communities or programs.

Thank you again for your continued vigilance and patience. I am looking forward to the day when we can open our doors again to friends and family and be together as staff, but until then, thank you for doing all you can to keep yourself and your loved ones along with those you care for and work with safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Bill Lowe
CEO & President