



December 16, 2020

Dear residents and family members,

COVID-19 vaccines will soon be approved and delivered to long term care facilities. We are very excited by this news.

Some of you may be worried about the safety of these new vaccines because they were created more quickly than those in the past. Please know that this is not due to skipping safety steps. Instead, it is the result of focused and united work by experts across the world. The vaccines have gone through the same level of careful testing. Large studies have been done to make sure they met safety standards. Many of these studies were done on older adults. Safety data was also reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and an independent advisory committee.

The vaccines are given in a series of two shots that are three or four weeks apart. Most people who get the shots will not have problems. Some may have mild side effects that go away in a week. This may happen more often after the second dose. Common problems are headache, muscle pains, lack of energy, chills, fever, and a sore arm. This is not because the vaccine has made you sick. Instead, it is a sign that the immune system is working to build up protection to the disease. The vaccine cannot give you a COVID-19 infection.

We are one of thousands of facilities that are taking part in a program with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to give these free vaccines to residents and staff members when they are ready. We will keep you updated on this process.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the vaccine, its possible side effects, and what to expect after your loved one gets it. Contact us at stfrancisvaccine@saintfrancisrehab.com or visit our dedicated Vaccination Web Page. We are all in this together. The safety and wellbeing of our staff and residents is our top priority. We feel strongly that the COVID-19 vaccines will allow us all to enjoy life with our loved ones again. We are ready to take part in this effort by getting the COVID-19 vaccine. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Katie Joyce, Administrator