

Date: December 2, 2020  
To: Augsburg AL Residents and Families  
From: Cathy Sayers, Assisted Living Manager  
Subject: Path Forward Community Update



THE VILLAGE AT  
**AUGSBURG**  
A National Lutheran Community

Late yesterday evening we learned an assisted living resident has tested positive for COVID-19. This resident has been moved to the quarantine neighborhood. We will continue to test all assisted living residents once a week and all team members twice a week and can ease restrictions when we've had no positive cases for two weeks. We also continue to utilize appropriate personal protective equipment, disinfect regularly and all team members are washing their hands and using hand sanitizer throughout the day.

We have begun to receive information on a COVID-19 vaccination. The Village at Augsburg has made the choice to work in partnership with Walgreens for the vaccination. Walgreens is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and will be the team administering the vaccination. At this time, we know from the news media there are three vaccines that are performing well. We are not yet sure of which will become available to us. However, when we have this information, we will make it available to all residents, team members and resident's families.

At this time, we are not requiring the vaccination but we highly recommend it, even for those who have had the virus, as you can get it again. It is likely the vaccine will receive initial emergency approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). After receiving full approval, we are unsure if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will require residents and team members who have not already received the vaccination to get it. As we learn more, we will alert everyone.

We understand many are unsure if receiving a vaccine for COVID-19 is a safe decision. Our recommendation to get the vaccination is based on the appropriate approvals and recommendations from infectious disease experts. As we know more about the specific vaccine, we will send out more information and our team will be available to answer questions.

Our partnership with Walgreens will allow them to set up three clinics. Most of the vaccines in trial require two doses at least 21-28 days apart (we are unsure of the dates yet but will make them available as soon as we have them).

Walgreens is also following the same prevention practices our community is: utilizing personal protective equipment, observing social distance, washing hands regularly, conducting symptom screenings, testing employees regularly and disinfecting high-touch surfaces. Additionally, the Walgreens and Augsburg teams will observe each resident for fifteen minutes after the vaccine to ensure there is no negative reaction. The CDC has said participants need to be aware they may feel unwell in the days following the vaccination including arm soreness, body aches and possibly a fever. This does not mean the vaccination gives you COVID-19, the body reacts with an immune response to the vaccination, which creates these reactions. However, as is the case with many medicines and vaccines, experts agree the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the side effects associated with it. If you choose to decline the vaccine in the first round, it is unclear when it will become available again, as the goal is to vaccinate as many people as possible across the country.

As part of the process, all residents who wish to receive a vaccine need to fill out the attached form (our team can assist residents who may have a challenge with this). Assisted living forms require the signature of the Power of Attorney. Any resident/Power of Attorney declining the vaccination will need to fill out the attached declination form. **Please send completed forms to Cathy Sayers at [csayers@thevillageataugsburg.org](mailto:csayers@thevillageataugsburg.org).**

# MEMORANDUM

We know this is a lot of information to take in. We will send more specific information on the vaccine that will be made available to us as soon as we know.

As always we thank you for your patience, cooperation and continued prayers.

If you would like to schedule a virtual or glass door visit with your loved one, please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/assistedlivingvisits>.

As a reminder, all updates are kept online at [www.thevillageataugsburg.org/pathforward](http://www.thevillageataugsburg.org/pathforward).